



Report to the People | 2003–2004



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Steve Cooley | District Attorney

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The Report to the People 2003 – 2004 focuses on how we have built on the new programs, protocols, and policies initiated during the first two years of my term. These new beginnings involved monumental changes in the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office as we entered a new century.

Among those changes was the increased use of DNA and prosecution of “cold cases.” Identity theft and other crimes involving computers also presented growing challenges that the District Attorney’s Office was prepared to meet because sufficient groundwork had been laid. Prosecutions of corrupt public officials and attorneys increased with the establishment of new prosecution units.

New initiatives for juveniles – both as offenders and potential victims – have been expanded. Responses to gang crime have been improved. Fresh approaches were taken to address child abuse and neglect.

This report documents our efforts to combat crimes of violence and to investigate and prosecute corruption, fraud and thievery at the highest levels.

These have been two very successful years for criminal justice in the County of Los Angeles – years that concluded with my swearing in for a second term as District Attorney.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Co', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.



Curt Livesay

Chief Deputy District Attorney



This report is dedicated to recently retired Chief Deputy District Attorney Curt Livesay, who served longer in that post than anyone else in the history of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Curt Livesay devoted most of his professional career to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and to the cause of justice. He began his career as a deputy district attorney in 1965 following his graduation from UCLA Law School.

Rising through the ranks, Curt prosecuted a wide range of cases, from minor infractions to major death penalty cases. He entered management when he became the Head Deputy of the Juvenile Division in 1975.

Curt was first appointed Chief Deputy by District Attorney John Van de Kamp in 1979. It was then that Curt assumed one of the most difficult assignments ever undertaken by any prosecutor. He became the sole prosecutor responsible for deciding when the office would seek the death penalty. Curt's fairness and candor became widely admired within the criminal justice community.

In an unusual move, Curt invited defense attorneys to argue their cases against the death penalty for their clients before a decision was made. From 1979 to 1991, Curt decided the fates of more than 1,300 murder defendants, including Richard Ramirez, "The

Night Stalker," and William Bonin, "The Freeway Killer."

Curt approved seeking the death penalty in about one-third of the cases he reviewed. Of those, about a third resulted in death sentences.

Defense attorneys received word of Curt's decision in documents which became known as "Livesay Letters." They have been cited in case law and have become part of the legal lexicon in California.

When Curt retired in 1991, the office established a committee of senior prosecutors to decide death penalty cases with the chair having the final say. Curt is still the model for making this most serious decision.

In 2001, Curt returned as Chief Deputy at the request of District Attorney Steve Cooley. Cooley asked him to join in reorganizing and revitalizing the largest local prosecution office in the nation.

Curt once described his work: "Seeking justice is the best job in the world."

In addition to his successes as a trial attorney and executive in the District Attorney's Office, Curt is highly regarded as a lecturer and writer on legal topics. During his 10 years away from the office, Curt developed a national reputation as a consultant to corporate and government executives and as a court-appointed defense attorney in complex felony litigation.

Curt grew up on Lone Star ranch in Oklahoma. An American Indian, he is an Oklahoman Choctaw and

went to grade school in the village of Tamaha, which means "town" in Choctaw. Its full name originally was Chata Tamaha (Choctaw Town) – the spot on the Arkansas River where the trail of tears ended for the weak, sick and elderly among the thousands of Choctaws who had been forcibly removed from their tribal lands in the southern United States.

A brother-in-law who was a lawyer in Los Angeles visited the Lone Star

Ranch when Curt was in high school and watched him perform the duties of a ranch hand. He encouraged Curt to study in Los Angeles, which resulted in Curt's undergraduate and law school degrees from UCLA.

"After working on a ranch in Oklahoma, nothing since has seemed like work," Curt often says.

Curt never missed a Christmas at the ranch after he moved to Los Angeles. He now owns property that encompasses the family ranch and other acreage. "I have a strong attachment to the trees and the rocks of that place," Curt says. The ranch is located in the foothills



of the Ozark Mountains.

Another place that has a special grip on Curt is the south of France. He and his wife of 30 years, Bika – whom he met at UCLA – traveled widely in Europe. Bika, a professor of humanities at Harbor College, died in the mid-90's. Subsequently, Curt renewed his acquaintance with a lady whom he had met at UCLA decades earlier. Eventually, they wed.

Sunny Livesay had lived and conducted art-oriented tours of France for couples

and families. This enterprise expanded to focus on American artists who wanted to travel in the south of France and paint at the sites used by impressionists. Curt and Sunny spend two to three months a year conducting these tours. They have one rule: they are always at Cannes for Bastille Day to see the fireworks.

At the Lone Star Ranch there are three clocks: one set at Los Angeles time, one at Lone Star time, and one at Paris time.

Curt plans on remaining active in all three venues.

Fighting Violent Crime

Major Cases 2003 – 2004

People v. Phillip Spector

The District Attorney's Office obtained an indictment from the Los Angeles County Grand Jury on September 20, 2004, against record producer Phil Spector for the murder of actress Lana Clarkson. It is alleged that the defendant personally used a firearm to kill Ms. Clarkson.

Alhambra police officers responded to Spector's estate in the early morning hours of February 3, 2003, after a frantic 9-1-1 call from the producer's driver. Authorities discovered the body of Ms. Clarkson slumped in a chair with a single gunshot wound through her mouth. The murder weapon, a .38 caliber Colt Cobra revolver, was lying on the floor near the victim. Spector, who has a history of threatening women with handguns, was arrested shortly after the shooting and has remained free on \$1 million bail.

If convicted, Spector faces a maximum prison term of life with the possibility of parole. The case is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Alan Jackson.

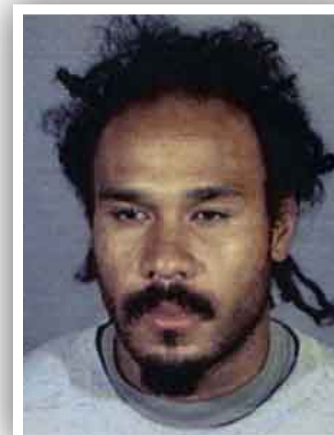
People v. Craigen Armstrong

In August of 2004, a jury recommended the death penalty for Craigen Armstrong, a Crenshaw Mafia gang member who brutally murdered three brothers. On September 27, 2001, Armstrong killed Christopher Florence as he drove through Crenshaw Mafia gang territory in the city of Inglewood. Three days later, the victim's brothers – Michael, Torry and Brian – and a friend were driving through Inglewood to meet a person who claimed to have information about the murder. While stopped at an intersection, the defendant fired multiple shots at their car, killing Michael and Torry. Brenda Florence, the mother of all three decedents, was in her home mourning the murder of her son, Christopher, when she heard the fatal shots that killed Michael and Torry.

The District Attorney's Office charged Armstrong with three counts of murder and alleged multiple murder, drive-by murder and gang murder special circumstances. A jury convicted the defendant of all charges on August 27, 2004, and subsequently recommended the death penalty. The court followed the recommendation when it sentenced the defendant to death on January 5, 2005.

Deputy district attorneys Lowell Anger and Sean Hassett prosecuted the case.

People v. Mark Wayne Rathbun



Rathbun entered his victims' homes late at night through an open window or unlocked door and sexually assaulted them. By preventing the victims from seeing his face, the defendant managed to elude police for nearly six years. Investigators broke the case in November of 2002, when Rathbun was detained by Long Beach police officers three blocks from the scene of an attempted assault. DNA evidence collected as a result of that detention linked him to the sexual assaults of 30 women, ranging in age from 39 to 77 years old.

In the summer of 2004, the District Attorney's Office successfully prosecuted Mark Wayne Rathbun (left), a.k.a. the Belmont Shore rapist. From 1997 to 2002, the defendant preyed upon women living alone in Long Beach and along the Orange County coast.

The District Attorney's Office charged Rathbun with 64 felony counts, including rape, forcible oral copulation, residential burglary and assault, involving 14 victims.

On August 10, 2004, a jury convicted the defendant of over 60 of the charges. Long Beach Superior Court Judge Joan Comparet-Cassani sentenced Rathbun to 10 life terms plus 1,030 years in state prison. This is believed to be the longest sentence ever imposed in California.

Deputy District Attorney Richard Goul prosecuted the case.

People v. Sante Kimes & Kenneth Kimes

The District Attorney's Office extradited Sante Kimes and her son, Kenneth (both pictured above), from New York to face charges in Los Angeles that the pair murdered Granada Hills businessman David Kazdin. The grand jury indictment alleged murder with the special circumstances of murder for financial gain, murder of a witness and multiple murders.

Kenneth Kimes, who testified against Sante Kimes to avoid the death penalty, told jurors that his mother

Fighting Violent Crime

Major Cases 2003–2004

ordered him to kill Mr. Kazdin after the victim learned that the two were involved in an insurance scam.

On March 13, 1998, Kenneth Kimes shot the victim in the back of the head and dumped his body in a trash bin near Los Angeles International Airport.

After the murder, the Kimes fled to New York City. Four months later, the pair murdered Irene Silverman, an 83-year-old socialite, in an attempt to fraudulently take possession of her Manhattan mansion. They were convicted of that murder in May of 2000 and sentenced to more than 100 years in prison in New York.

On July 7, 2004, a Los Angeles County jury convicted Sante Kimes of the first degree murder of David Kazdin and found the special circumstances to be true. Mother and son were subsequently sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

Deputy District Attorney Eleanor Hunter prosecuted both defendants.

People v. Bruce Kocklich

Bruce Kocklich (above right), son-in-law of the late State Senator Paul Carpenter, was convicted on October 8, 2004 of murdering his wife. Bruce and Jana Carpenter Kocklich were successful real estate brokers in Long Beach.



leading up to her disappearance. Investigators became suspicious, however, when they discovered behavior which was extremely uncharacteristic of the victim. Ms. Kocklich missed an appointment with her personal trainer that weekend and failed to return numerous phone calls from her ailing father and several friends. At trial, the prosecution presented compelling evidence that Ms. Kocklich had been killed several days before her husband reported her missing. The jury convicted the defendant of second degree murder.

Deputy district attorneys Eleanor Hunter and Michael Latin prosecuted the case.

The defendant reported his wife missing on August 20, 2001, when she failed to appear at work. One week later, authorities discovered the victim's car parked in a vacant garage in Signal Hill but never found her body.

According to the defendant, the couple spent a relaxing weekend together in the days



Crimes Against Peace Officers

Prosecutors assigned to the Crimes Against Peace Officers Section (CAPOS) play an integral role in the investigation and prosecution of cases in which peace officers are victims. CAPOS deputies are always on call and respond to the scene whenever an officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty. The deputies work closely with the investigating agency. They advise agency personnel on legal issues; assist with the preparation of search warrants and other legal tools; and aggressively prosecute those individuals criminally charged.

When David Garcia killed Burbank Police Officer Matthew Pavelka, CAPOS deputies and members of the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation assisted in an intense, multi-agency effort which led to the arrest of Garcia at the Mexican border. Garcia is now awaiting trial on numerous charges, including capital murder.

Los Angeles Police Officer Ricardo Lizaragga was shot and killed while investigating a domestic disturbance in Leimert Park on February 20, 2004. The shooter was a gang member who was on parole. He hung himself in his cell after his first court appearance.

After lying in wait to shoot any police officer he saw, Valentino Arenas executed California Highway Patrol Officer Thomas Steiner outside the Pomona courthouse. He did so to impress members of a violent Pomona street gang that he was trying to join.

"Courage is timeless and valor knows no special day."



Burbank Police Officer
Matthew Pavelka



Los Angeles Police Officer
Ricardo Lizaragga



California Highway Patrol Officer
Thomas Steiner

Crimes Against Peace Officers

“This was the ultimate hate crime, the random assassination of a law enforcement officer solely based on the victim’s status in the community and the uniform worn. Those who commit these crimes and those who aid, abet and encourage the cowardly gang subculture should be condemned,” said District Attorney Steve Cooley.

On December 6, 2004, Arenas pleaded guilty and admitted the special circumstance allegations. He was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Since Arenas was a juvenile at the time of the offense, he was not eligible for the death penalty.

CAPOS prosecutors continue to support the agencies and the families of fallen officers even after the conclusion of the case. Representatives from CAPOS (below) accompanied the District Attorney to Washington, D.C. to participate in National Law Enforcement Week and attended a vigil at the National Police Memorial where they met with surviving family members and agency representatives.



Interagency Gang Task Force

The Interagency Gang Task Force (IGTF) is a subcommittee of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), consisting of representatives from various criminal justice agencies and community-based organizations. IGTF was established to address escalating gang crime and violence in Los Angeles County. The task force sought to bring together governmental agencies and the public in hopes of fostering greater awareness of gang violence throughout the county. This effort was received enthusiastically by law enforcement, community members and the clergy.

In 2003, Janet Moore, then Head Deputy of the District Attorney’s Hardcore Gang Unit, chaired the committee. Under Ms. Moore’s leadership, specific goals and changes to the structure of IGTF were made to place greater emphasis on community involvement and bridge the divide between law enforcement and the community.

Recognizing the need for a local approach to addressing gang violence, IGTF created regional teams. In January 2003, the regional teams began meeting on a monthly basis to enhance suppression, intervention and prevention efforts. Regional meetings have increased the effectiveness of existing anti-gang programs and led to the development of new programs based on the needs of each region.

IGTF continued to highlight successful anti-gang violence programs at its Second Annual Anti-Gang Violence Conference, held in November 2003. The conference, jointly sponsored by the Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Office of Education, featured Pete Carroll, USC Head Football Coach, and Lou Tice, Chairman of the Pacific Institute.

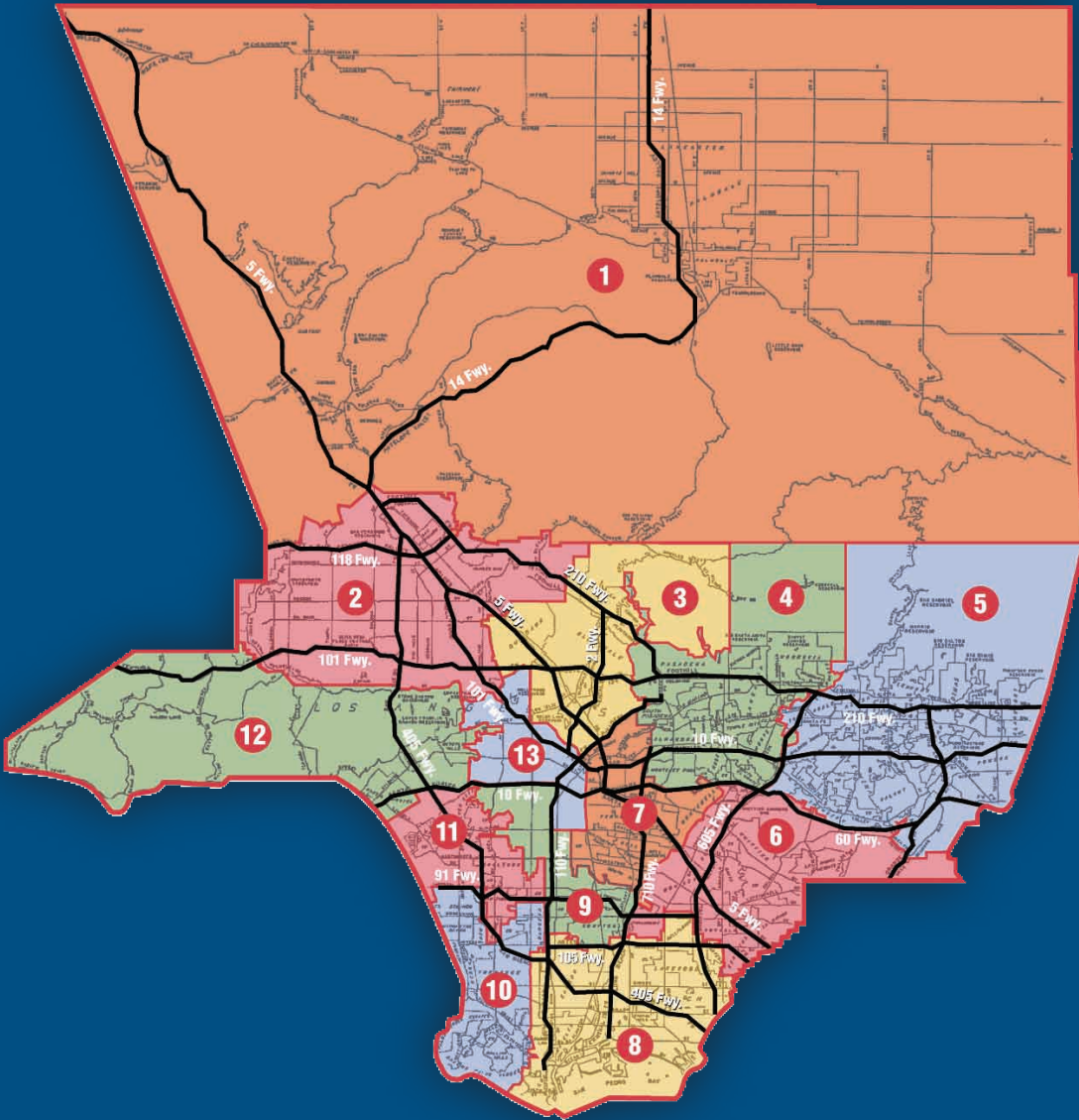
During 2004, Marty Vranicar, Head of the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Gang Unit, chaired IGTF. IGTF continued to make remarkable progress. In 2004, grant funding was secured to finance a comprehensive anti-gang violence program in the ABC Unified School District, including prevention and intervention programs and the opening of a teen center. This funding also supported the implementation of a multi-disciplinary team.

The Board of Supervisors and the County Police Chiefs’ Association provided funding to further expand the Los Angeles Regional Gang Information Network (LARGIN). LARGIN coordinates gang crime suppression efforts of all law enforcement agencies in the County. It serves as a central clearinghouse on street gang information and provides a case

management system and mapping capabilities. IGTF also obtained funding to create a web-based prevention and intervention guide allowing law enforcement, schools, parents, community based organizations and the public to access local resources by zip code, type of service, or an area designation. The Web site will be fully operational in July 2005.

The impact of IGTF is demonstrable. The rise in serious gang felony crimes experienced prior to the creation of IGTF has leveled off, and gang-related homicides have decreased. Overall gang crime went down by 14.6%, and overall homicides decreased by 6% between 2002 and 2004.

IGTF will continue to build on the existing collaboration involving public and governmental agencies in an effort to reduce gang crime.



- Interagency Gang Task Force Regional Map**
- Region 1: North County
 - Region 2: San Fernando Valley
 - Region 3: Burbank/Glendale Area
 - Region 4: San Gabriel Valley
 - Region 5: East County
 - Region 6: Southeast County
 - Region 7: East Los Angeles
 - Region 8: Long Beach
 - Region 9: South Central
 - Region 10: South Bay
 - Region 11: Mid-West
 - Region 12: West County
 - Region 13: Central

Fighting Violent Crime

Community Law Enforcement And Recovery (C.L.E.A.R.) Program

Community Law Enforcement And Recovery (C.L.E.A.R.) is a multi-agency collaborative gang suppression program which targets specific gangs in specific, geographically defined areas. The goal of the program is to provide a flexible and coordinated response to crime perpetrated by gang members by increasing communication between the community and law enforcement agencies. In each designated target area, prosecutors regularly meet with a Community Impact Team (C.I.T.) comprised of residents, business owners and other stakeholders who live and work in the area. Using input from C.I.T. members combined with traditional law enforcement tools – such as civil injunctions, antitruancy and curfew violation programs, probation searches, and vertical prosecution – C.L.E.A.R. team members are able to respond to the changing needs of a community.

C.L.E.A.R. prosecutors have tried a number of high-profile, significant gang cases in their ongoing effort to deter future gang violence. For instance, Gilbert Saldana, a member of the Avenues gang, was identified as a target gang member by the Northeast C.L.E.A.R. program. On October 28, 2000, Saldana shot rival gang members Jonathan Padron and Jose Noyola in their heads. Mr. Padron died at the scene. Mr. Noyola survived but lost an eye.

A C.L.E.A.R. prosecutor was assigned to vertically prosecute the case. On October 8, 2003, a jury convicted Saldana of murder and found the special

circumstances allegations to be true.

Defendant Saldana was sentenced to the maximum punishment of life without the possibility of parole.

Heightened Enforcement And Targeting (H.E.A.T.) Program

Heightened Enforcement And Targeting (H.E.A.T.) is a collection of multi-agency collaborative gang suppression programs loosely modeled after C.L.E.A.R..

Prosecutors work with local law enforcement officers, probation officers and school officials to address gang-related issues involving specific gangs within specific geographical areas. The goal of the program is to use community-based prosecution techniques to ensure focused suppression efforts in abating gang and gang-related crime. Currently, Athens, Lancaster, Pasadena, Valinda and Florence-Firestone have H.E.A.T. programs.

The joint effort of the agencies which participate in the H.E.A.T. program routinely results in the successful prosecution of violent gang members. For instance, in *People v. Underwood, Harling and Richardson*, the defendants were charged with having committed

a drive-by shooting which claimed the lives of two innocent victims: 13-year-old Demario Moore and 15-year-old Quinesha Dunford. Showing no remorse, the defendants were seen “high-fiving” each other immediately after the shooting.

In 2004, defendants Underwood and Harling were convicted of the special circumstance murders of both victims. Defendant Richardson was convicted of second degree murder.

Escaping Justice

EscapingJustice.com is a victim-based Web site developed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office in 2004. It gives a voice to victims and family members who have lost a

loved one in a senseless murder only to learn that justice is being denied by Mexican courts and an outdated and unworkable extradition treaty.

The Web site gives first hand accounts of the crimes. It also describes the obstacles to extradition and proposed solutions. Wanted posters, interviews, speeches, legislation, and letters to and from public officials can also be downloaded.

Until all fugitives can be unconditionally returned to face trial in the United States, EscapingJustice.com will be there to lend support to the victims and to lobby for change. “The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office is committed to the resolution of this problem,” said District Attorney Steve Cooley.

Escaping Justice.com

Home What California D.A.s Are Doing Legislation The Issues Related Efforts

Carlos & Anabella Vara Kenny Caldera Deputy David March Steven Morales Tiffany Rios Jessica Zavala & Olivia Mungua

D.A. Steve Cooley Opposes Proposed Legislation that Gives Cop-Killers a Break

What Do These People Have In Common?

They and hundreds of others like them have been victims of senseless, brutal, cold-blooded murders in Los Angeles County by fugitives who have escaped justice for the price of a bus ticket across the border.

Countless fugitives have found safe haven in Mexico because the laws of Mexico protect them from prosecution here in the United States where the crimes were committed.

Are You a Victim?

Fighting Violent Crime

Using DNA to Solve Cold Cases

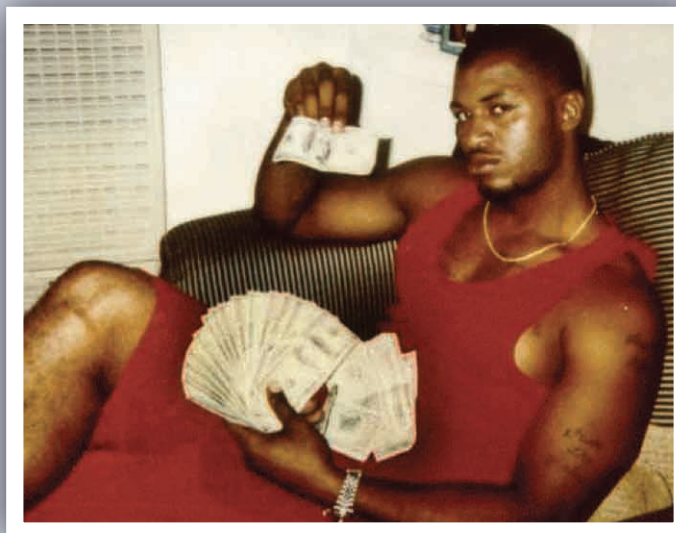
Advancements in DNA technology are breathing new life into old, cold, or unsolved criminal cases. District Attorney Steve Cooley's emphasis on DNA and the prosecution of cold cases has garnered national recognition.

The Long Beach Freeway Rapist case is one highly publicized example. Between December 2001 and October 2003, ten women and girls were kidnapped, raped and brutalized along the Long Beach Freeway corridor. An eleventh victim was attacked in El Monte.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's crime lab connected the Long Beach Freeway cases to one assailant through DNA evidence. On October 3, 2003, the El Monte Police Department arrested Daniel Sanchez attempting to break into a home. Sanchez's DNA matched the DNA of the 11 unsolved rape cases.

The District Attorney's Unsolved Homicide Team works closely with law enforcement to solve and prosecute difficult and complex gang-related murder cases that have remained unsolved for many years.

In May 2003, Marcus Dorwin Adams was convicted of the 1994 killing of three rival gang members in an execution style slaying. The triple homicide case remained unsolved for nearly a decade. After a lengthy and challenging trial, Adams was convicted of the triple homicide and received the first death penalty verdict in a cold case.



Above: Gang member Marcus Dorwin Adams, see page 32 (Patrick Sequeira - August 2003) for a detailed account of his case.

Other cold case convictions stand out. In one case, the defendant was convicted of the 1988 homicide of his young wife after new DNA testing showed blood recovered from his car matched the victim. In another murder conviction, DNA testing of trace amounts of blood found in the defendant's Redondo Beach apartment matched the defendant's girlfriend who disappeared around Christmas of 1999.

“Sexual Assault Victims’ DNA Bill of Rights” (AB 898)

With cold cases successfully prosecuted office wide, the sense of justice and closure gained by victims and family members cannot be over estimated. District Attorney Steve Cooley recognized the need to dedicate more resources to empower detectives and prosecutors to use DNA technology quickly and effectively. To that end, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that the new Los Angeles Regional Crime Laboratory, currently under construction, will be the premier, state-of-the-art forensic science facility in the nation.

Below: District Attorney Cooley speaks at the 75th anniversary of the L.A. County Sheriff's Crime Lab.



Over the last couple of years, numerous media reports about growing backlogs of untested sexual assault evidence and disturbing news of destroyed rape kits that were never tested bitterly disappointed thousands of sexual assault victims and shook the public's confidence in the criminal justice system. Each untested or destroyed rape kit represented a lost opportunity to identify a sexual assault offender and solve crime.

District Attorney Steve Cooley responded to the need to strengthen California's statutory rights for crime victims by spearheading the passage of AB 898, the “Sexual Assault Victims’ DNA Bill of Rights.” This groundbreaking legislation – written by nationally-recognized DNA prosecution expert Lisa Kahn, Deputy-in-Charge of the District Attorney's Forensic Sciences Sections, and co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women – was the first DNA victims’ rights bill in the nation.

Signed into law in September 2003, Penal Code section 680 empowers thousands of victims who were once left on the sidelines frustrated with the progress of their investigations.

Fighting Violent Crime

Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Protocol

In 1998, pursuant to the California Children's Justice Act, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of the Los Angeles County Child Abuse and Neglect Protocol Task Force. With leadership provided by the District Attorney's Office, the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) task force developed and promulgated a protocol to serve as a guideline for professionals with the mission to protect victims of abuse, maximize successful interventions, hold abusers accountable for the harm done and prevent new victimizations.

Over 20 law enforcement, child protective services, education, child advocacy, health care services and court agencies participate in ICAN. It has been proven that inter-agency collaboration better serves vulnerable victims of child abuse by reducing the emotional trauma they sustain from repeat interviews, numerous court appearances, multiple medical examinations and other governmental interventions. Inter-agency collaboration also increases accountability for abusers.

The ICAN protocol was released in November 2004. A copy may be downloaded on the ICAN/ National Child Fatality Review (NCFR) Web site at www.ican-ncfr.org. The District Attorney's Office has joined a working group comprised of representatives from stakeholder agencies to assist in carrying out this mandate.

Jailhouse Witness Protection Task Force

Protection for witnesses both in and out of custody is a fundamental responsibility for every agency and individual involved in the criminal justice system. Unfortunately, it is becoming apparent that the components of the criminal justice system are falling short of fulfilling that responsibility.

Reprisals against those who testify in court are increasingly frequent and increasingly violent. Witnesses incarcerated within the jail system are particularly vulnerable.

In response to this crisis, District Attorney Steve Cooley created the Jailhouse Witness Protection Task Force – a panel of eight prominent citizens dedicated to improvements in the criminal justice system – in June 2004. The District Attorney further selected eight highly experienced deputy district attorneys and investigators to serve as staff for the Task Force. The Task Force and staff were charged with reviewing current witness protection procedures to promulgate recommendations for innovations and improvements that would help to ensure witness safety and security.

The Jailhouse Witness Protection Task Force made

51 recommendations that would improve the ability to protect endangered witnesses.

The primary recommendation was the creation of a Witness Protection Unit (WPU) within the Sheriff's Department that would have sole responsibility and accountability within the department for the protection, classification, housing and transportation of inmate witnesses.

A secondary recommendation called for the creation of a standing multi-agency subcommittee of the Board of Supervisors' Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) to address issues of witness protection throughout Los Angeles County.

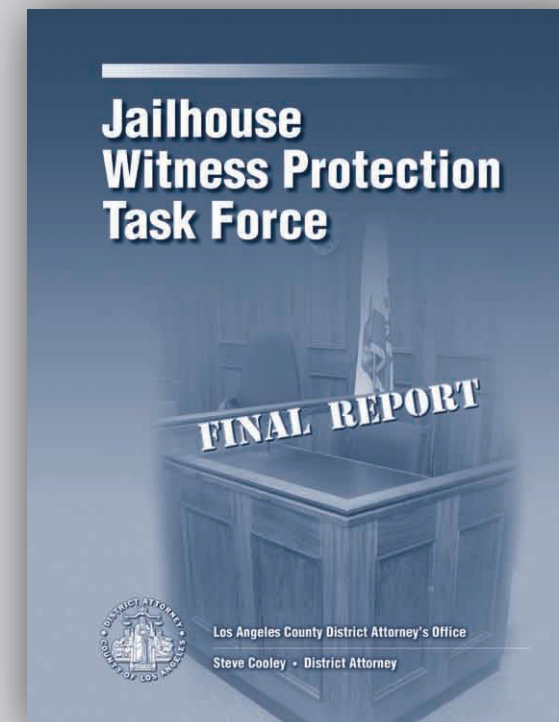
Additional recommendations included:

- Installation of telephone and visitation recording and monitoring systems within the County Jail which utilize the latest technological developments to allow law enforcement to record and preserve non-privileged communications, control access, identify callers, be alerted to unauthorized telephone use, and block potentially dangerous communications.
- Mandatory notification and consideration of input from the court or requesting party before any request for "keep away" status is changed or denied.
- Installation of video monitoring systems in critical areas of all jail facilities to allow for close monitoring

of all at-risk inmates.

- Development and implementation of a computerized inmate classification processing system with the capability of connecting courthouses and jails.
- Expansion of the existing inmate wristband scanning system to include more detailed information about the inmate, his housing, and his authorized movements to enable law enforcement to curtail inmate access to unauthorized areas.
- Increased use of alternative housing for endangered witnesses, including the use of currently closed facilities to be used solely for that purpose; development of a separate transportation system for endangered witnesses; utilization of alternatives to personal court appearances by endangered witnesses, such as video conferencing.
- Collaboration among leaders within the justice system to secure adequate funding for the California Witness Protection Program, which needs a minimum 20-percent increase in its annual funding allocation.

"It is vital that those who work within our justice system along with our governmental leaders rise to the challenge and promote immediate change and improvement to ensure the safety and security of those persons called upon to be witnesses," said District Attorney Steve Cooley when he created the task force.



Jailhouse Witness Protection Task Force Members

Community Members

Clayton Anderson, Chief, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation (ret.)
Foreman for the Los Angeles County Grand Jury (1999-2000)
Oreal Cotton, Assistant Chief, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation (ret.)
Elizabeth Dickenson, Chief of Detective Division, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Alex Jacinto, Attorney at Law, Los Angeles
Rosario Marin, 41st Treasurer of the United States (ret.)
George Nicholaw, Vice President and General Manager, KNX 1070 Radio (ret.)

District Attorney's Office Members

Janet Moore, Bureau Director
Victoria Adams, Assistant Head Deputy
Mark Ashen, Assistant Head Deputy
Gary Hearnberger, Assistant Head Deputy
Alan Jarvis, Captain, Bureau of Investigation
John Nantrou, Deputy-in-Charge
Maria Ramirez, Special Assistant
Patrick Sequeira, Deputy District Attorney

Fraud, Corruption and Thievery

Prosecution of Public Officials and Attorneys



Omar Bradley, Former Compton Mayor



Public Integrity Division

The Public Integrity Division (PID) vigorously pursued allegations of public corruption at all levels of government during 2003 and 2004. Over that two-year period, 52 felony cases were filed, and 39 cases were resolved by pleas or convictions. In the four years that PID has been in existence, the division has reviewed a total of 1,457 complaints; filed 111 felony cases; and obtained 77 convictions.

After a three-year investigation, PID prosecutors filed felony charges in 2003 against the following former City of Compton officials: Mayor Omar Bradley, City Manager John Johnson and three city council members. These individuals were charged with misusing city-issued credit cards and abusing travel reimbursements. Defendants Bradley, Johnson and councilman Amen Rahh were convicted following a lengthy jury trial. Bradley and Johnson were sentenced to state prison.

Los Angeles County Regional Planning employee Emmet Taylor was charged with 97 felony counts of forgery and falsification of public records for creating hundreds of fraudulent deeds to benefit clients of his private consulting business. Taylor collected over \$400,000 in fees, and the County spent nearly \$2 million to correct the resulting illegal subdivisions.

On May 6, 2005, Taylor pleaded guilty to several counts of falsifying public records. He will be sentenced to a minimum of three years in state prison.

Following a joint investigation conducted by PID and the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, John Archibald – a vice president for Los Angeles real estate development company Casden Properties – and 14 of the company’s subcontractors were charged with felony campaign money laundering involving over \$200,000 in contributions to candidates in the 2001 Los Angeles municipal election. The defendants pleaded guilty in October of 2004, and each was ordered to pay a substantial fine.

In a separate case, prominent Los Angeles attorney Pierce O’Donnell was charged with laundering over \$25,000 in campaign contributions to James Hahn’s 2001 mayoral campaign. This case is pending.

Developer and former Alhambra city councilman John Williams and his business partner Frank Liu were charged with bribery after PID investigators recorded Williams handing an envelope containing \$25,000 in cash to an Alhambra councilman who was cooperating in the investigation. The defendants were attempting

to obtain city funding for a development project in the city. The case is pending.

The Internal Welfare Fraud Unit (IWFU) of PID prosecuted Angelita Gonzalez for theft of public funds. Gonzalez was an executive director of a non-profit service provider under contract with the County to administer employment related programs to welfare recipients who speak neither English nor Spanish. Although Gonzalez claimed a 100-percent success rate in placing clients, the investigation revealed that almost 80 percent of the cases for which she billed the County were fraudulent. D.A. investigators recovered \$2.4 million in illegally obtained County funds from the agency’s bank account. The 63-year-old Gonzalez was sentenced to four years in state prison.

“The Public Integrity Division is accomplishing its goals of convicting officials who abuse their public offices and of restoring faith in government,” Steve Cooley said.

Justice System Integrity Division

The motto of the Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) is: “No one is above the law, especially those who are sworn to uphold it.” JSID was created to specifically handle the prosecution of individuals in the justice system – judges, attorneys, and law enforcement officers – who commit acts of criminal misconduct.

Three veteran prosecutors in the division focus specifically on attorneys who run afoul of the law. Deputy district attorneys William Penzin, Edward Miller, and Betty Munisoglu handle cases ranging from embezzling client funds to the unauthorized practice of law. Caseloads are generated by formal complaints to our office or through referrals from the State Bar, which conducts parallel disciplinary investigations.

The unit, one of the first of its kind in the state, is garnering significant praise for its pioneering prosecutions. A typical case is the prosecution of Suzi Schor for the unauthorized practice of law. Defendant Schor assumed the identity of attorney Susan Schorr, who was on inactive status in 2002. Defendant Schor called the State Bar and had attorney Schorr’s status

No one is above the law, especially those who are sworn to uphold it.
– Motto of the Justice System Integrity Division

reinstated to active and filed a change of address. The defendant worked for two law firms in 2002, before her fraudulent scheme was uncovered. Schor was charged with and convicted of the unauthorized practice of law, for which she was sentenced to over six months in county jail and ordered to pay \$200,000 in restitution.

Deputy District Attorney Edward Miller charged Steven Unger, a former attorney, with embezzlement and four felony counts of failing to comply with certain mandatory court rules. The charges arose from criminal offenses Unger committed after he had voluntarily resigned from the State Bar with disciplinary charges pending. The Unger case represents the first time the division has filed felony charges for failure to comply with California Rules of Court following resignation or disciplinary action by the Supreme Court.

Cristeta Paguirigan was a prominent figure in South Gate city government and a key advisor to former city treasurer Albert Robles. Despite having been disbarred, Paguirigan took thousands of dollars from clients who were misled into believing she was still licensed to practice law. Following her criminal conviction on charges of grand theft by false pretenses, Paguirigan was sentenced to three years and four months in state prison and ordered to pay more than \$32,000 in restitution.

JSID deputies charged Huey Sheppard, a 68-year-old former attorney and former Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, with embezzling nearly \$176,000 from four clients, including an elderly woman on life support. Sheppard pleaded guilty to five theft-related felony counts and admitted to several aggravated white collar crime enhancements, including excessive taking.

Fraud, Corruption and Thievery

Consumer Protection Division

The Consumer Protection Division investigates and prosecutes unfair or deceptive business practices which victimize consumers and honest businesses in Los Angeles County. The cases involve false or misleading advertising, deceptive sales practices, dishonest or fraudulent services, and other unlawful business practices. Much of the division's work is in civil court using the state's powerful false advertising and unfair competition statutes to obtain injunctions, civil penalties, and victim restitution.

The Consumer Protection Division continues its leadership role in California in its prosecution and statewide training efforts and in drafting new legislation to combat consumer fraud.

The Consumer Division of four other counties joined with District Attorneys to sue Macy's, one of California's largest department store chains, for a statewide pattern of check stand overcharges. The judgment resulted in a sweeping injunction, \$1.7 million in civil penalties and agency costs, plus the implementation of two novel restitution programs: a \$5 coupon available to all Macy's shoppers and a program in which overcharged Macy's customers receive the item they are purchasing for free (up to \$10) or a \$10 discount.

In *People v. PETCO Animal Supplies, Inc.*, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Consumer Protection Division in conjunction with three other local prosecution agencies obtained a judgment against the 136-store pet supplies chain for pricing inaccuracies, false advertising, and inadequate and inhumane animal care. The final judgment included \$852,500 in civil penalties, agency costs, and new equipment to alleviate pricing accuracy problems.

The Consumer Protection Division completed a multi-year enforcement effort with the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Air Resources Board in 2004. In this effort, the Consumer Protection Division successfully sued every major rental car company in California – including Hertz, Avis, Budget, National, Alamo, General, and U-Haul – for operating rental cars in California without paying required registration fees or meeting California emissions standards. The legal action yielded permanent injunctions eliminating the unlawful practices and a total of more than \$3.1 million in penalties, costs, and restitution to the State of California.

Trevor Law Group

Consumer Protection Division staff provided litigation assistance to local small businesses victimized by the highly publicized abusive litigation brought by the "Trevor Law Group" of Beverly Hills. These meritless lawsuits were part of a scheme to extract unjustified settlements from unsophisticated restaurant and auto businesses in Los Angeles. The Consumer Protection Division worked closely with State Bar officials and small businesses.

Head Deputy Tom Papageorge drafted and argued the amicus curiae brief which was instrumental in the April 2003 Los Angeles Superior Court dismissal of the related Trevor Law Group actions. Members of the Consumer Protection Division also contributed information and analysis which assisted the State Bar in acting to revoke the licenses of the three Trevor Law Group attorneys.

Response to Expansion of Identity Theft Crimes

During 2003 – 2004, identity theft was one of the fastest growing crimes in Los Angeles County. In response to this growing threat, the Office increased the number of prosecutors in the High Tech Crime Unit, joined the Southern California Identity Theft Task Force and conducted a series of training programs for law enforcement and prosecutors on identity theft.

In 2004, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office worked to address the rising national trend of identity theft by taking a leadership role in the development of a National Identity Theft Center. The National District Attorney's Association and the American Prosecution Research Institute formed a working group of financial industry representatives and prosecutors to develop a plan to combat identity theft. The working group met in Washington, D.C. in December 2004. As a result of this and subsequent meetings, the following identity theft goals were developed:

- Create a national training curriculum on identity theft and financial crime for prosecutors and security representatives of the financial industry.
- Create a Point of Contact (POC) list accessible via the Internet so that law enforcement can identify the correct person and department to contact in all jurisdictions.
- Create a "Uniform Request for Information" form for law enforcement to streamline the process of obtaining information.
- Create an independent funding source for witness transportation on interstate financial prosecutions.

"Identity theft is a particularly insidious crime. It presents law enforcement with a particularly grave challenge," District Attorney Steve Cooley stated.

Unauthorized Practice of Law

The unauthorized practice of law generally involves con artists falsely claiming they are entitled to practice law, taking large payments of money under false pretenses and harming the legal rights of their victims. Under the direction of the District Attorney, the Consumer Protection Division has worked closely with leaders of the State Bar and local bar groups in implementing a new unauthorized practice of law protocol. The protocol details comprehensive procedures for reviewing and handling complaints involving such practices.

In 2003-2004, the Consumer Protection Division handled more than 40 unauthorized practice of law case reviews, resulting in successful felony prosecutions by this unit and numerous referrals for action by other agencies.

The unauthorized practice of law is a serious problem in Southern California, hitting immigrant communities especially hard as new arrivals to the United States seek legal advice or action regarding their immigration status.

In 2004, members of the Consumer Protection Division drafted, published, and distributed an 86-page guide, "Unauthorized Practice of Law – Manual for Prosecutors," to assist the D.A.'s Office and other prosecuting agencies in enforcing these laws. This manual has been used by agencies throughout the state to train prosecutors and investigators and to improve enforcement against this form of white collar crime.

Vienna Convention

In the past 50 years, international travel and immigration have become commonplace. And just as citizens of foreign countries are sometimes arrested in the United States, Americans abroad may also find themselves in custody in a place where the language, the justice system and the customs are unfamiliar and daunting.

Addressing this situation in 1969, the United States ratified a treaty known as the "Vienna Convention on Consular Relations" with 165 other nations. Among its provisions, the treaty requires arresting agencies to

advise known or suspected foreign nationals who are arrested of their right to contact their consul. Agencies must also permit reasonable consular visitation and consultation. Consul from an arrested person's native country may be able to assist in translating, obtaining necessary medical care, contacting family members, and arranging local legal representation.

In recent years, convicted foreign nationals have been challenging their cases in U.S. and international courts on the ground that American police officers allegedly failed to comply with the Vienna Convention requirements on notification of consular rights. The cases of 51 capital defendants reached the International Court of Justice. The U.S. Supreme Court and President Bush have become involved in the issue.

District Attorney Steve Cooley, working closely with the Los Angeles Consular Corps, the U.S. State Department, and the Sheriff and police chiefs, has addressed the need to ensure that law enforcement officers within Los Angeles County are aware of their duties under the treaty and that they are in full compliance.

To that end, Cooley directed a broad effort to communicate information about consular notification. Members of the District Attorney's Office have prepared and distributed training bulletins and a roll-call training DVD, published an article in the leading national police magazine, and conducted numerous seminars and briefings throughout the County.

Consultations with the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training resulted in a statewide commitment to expand instruction on consular notification in police academies and command schools and to distribute written and recorded materials to all law enforcement agencies in California.

Meeting the goal of ensuring maximum treaty compliance from law enforcement officers in Los Angeles County and elsewhere can help insulate valid criminal convictions from appellate attack. It can also fortify the U.S. State Department in its insistence that our citizens receive the treaty's protection in other countries. Moreover, complying with our treaty obligations is simply the right thing to do.

"The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is proud to be playing a leading role in providing targeted law enforcement training to meet this worthy goal," District Attorney Steve Cooley said.

Community Connections

Crime Prevention Program Proven Effective



A two-year evaluation of Project L.E.A.D. (Legal Enrichment And Decision-making) – the District Attorney's countywide crime prevention program for fifth graders – demonstrated the program's effectiveness in reaching children with positive messages about the law, education, and avoiding peer pressure.

Through Project L.E.A.D., deputy district attorneys and district attorney investigators volunteer to teach students about the law and help them recognize the social and legal consequences of criminal behavior. L.E.A.D. focuses on many of the pitfalls young people encounter, such as graffiti, joy riding, drug use, vandalism, shoplifting, and truancy.

Project L.E.A.D. reached 2,255 students in 2003 and 2004.

After contracting with the nationally renowned Constitutional Rights Foundation to overhaul the 20-week curriculum, the District Attorney's Office hired an independent evaluator in 2003 to determine the results of the redrawn program.

The two-year study showed that participation in Project L.E.A.D. increased student understanding of the consequences of their decisions; maintained students' positive attitudes about laws and lawyers; reinforced the importance of tolerance; and maintained positive

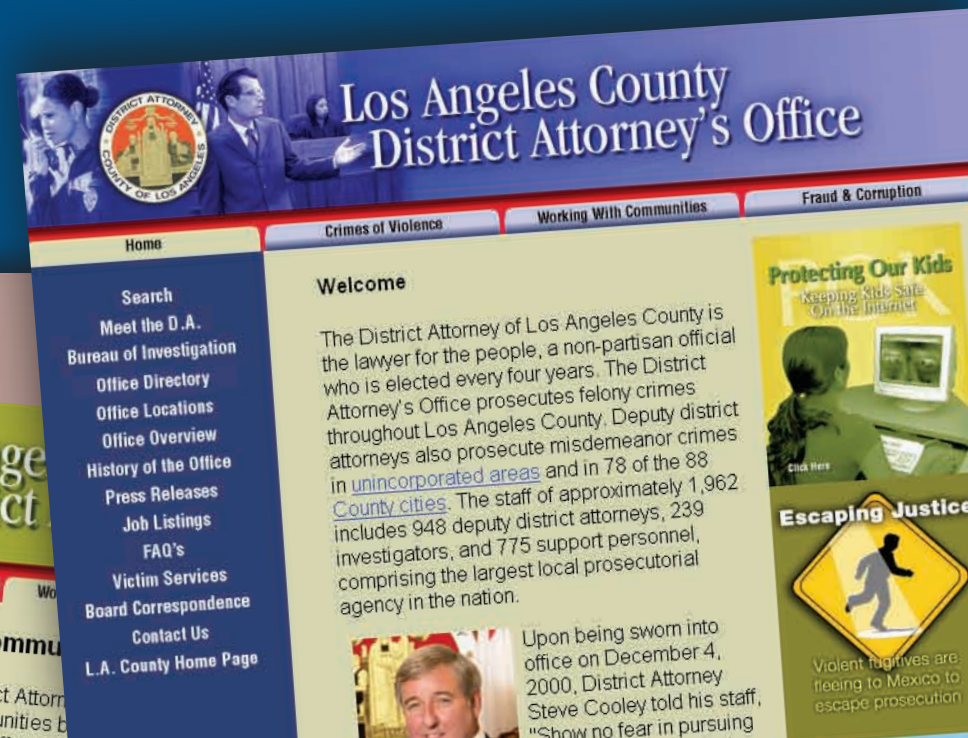
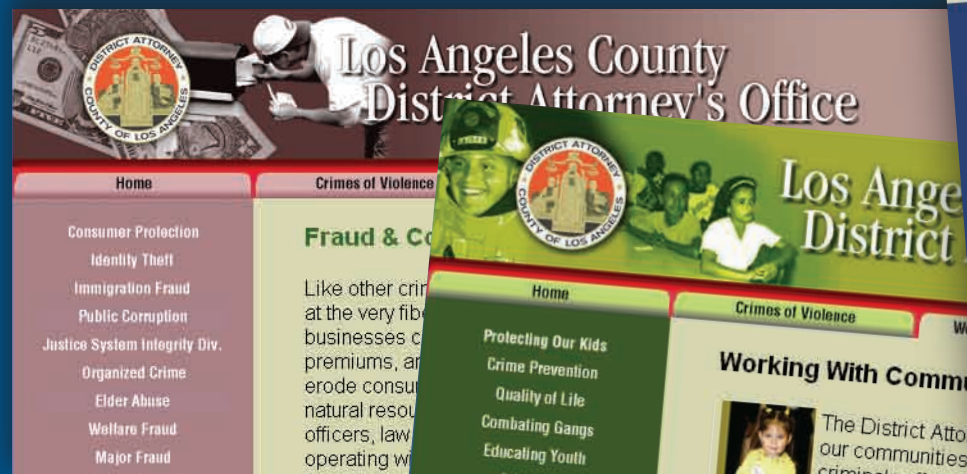
educational and career aspirations. A comparison group of students who did not participate in L.E.A.D. showed declines in many of these survey categories at the end of the year.

"Project L.E.A.D. was developed to help young people cultivate a healthy respect for the law, understand the good and bad consequences of their decisions, and appreciate the value of education," District Attorney Steve Cooley said. "The results of this evaluation prove that the program is doing just that. By working with youth in the classroom, we're less likely to see them in the courtroom."

"The promising results from this exploratory study of Project L.E.A.D. suggest a strong program with clear, positive messages for youth about the importance of understanding and following laws," said Dr. Bernadette Chi, the primary research consultant for the L.E.A.D. evaluation.

Based on the evaluation's findings, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention plans to support a national training program to expand L.E.A.D. to other states.

Community Connections



D.A.'s Web Site Gets a Facelift

The District Attorney's Office unveiled a completely redesigned Web site in 2003, giving the public an informative, visually appealing cyber-presentation on the nation's largest local prosecutorial agency.

The Web site receives more than 5 million hits a year and is located at www.lacountyda.org. The overhaul included new visual designs, as well as a reorganization and bolstering of content.

"Increasingly, the District Attorney's Office Web site is a first point of contact between our office and members of the public, media, and other public agencies," District Attorney Steve Cooley said. "As such, it is critical for our Web site to offer quick access to information in a highly professional format."

The Bureau of Crime Prevention & Youth Services was the driving force behind the overhaul: Graphic artists Alex Luna and Dan La Vigne created the design, several staff members contributed to content development, and Webmaster John Stephens built the site.

Assisting the project along the way was a Web site committee headed by Carol Baker, and consisting of

Mark Delgado, Rod Leonard, Tom McDonald, Lael Rubin, and Penny Schneider.

The new site is divided into four sections – Home Page, Crimes of Violence, Working with Communities, and Fraud & Corruption.

"I think this site will give the public a good idea of the breadth of work we do, as well as help them navigate through our office," said District Attorney Steve Cooley.

The Web site also helps people navigate to the D.A.'s offices. One of the new features is an "Office Locations" link complete with pictures of Branch and Area office buildings and MapQuest directions to them. As it turns out, the Web site serves as a roadmap to the office, both figuratively and literally.

The site contains valuable information to help members of the public prevent themselves from becoming victims of crime and to find help if they believe they are a victim of crime. All public information pamphlets distributed by the District Attorney's Office may be downloaded from the Web site.

Cyber Program Keeps Kids Safe Online

The features that make the World Wide Web so convenient – the ability to quickly obtain information and contact others – also make it a dangerous place for children. Sexual predators, fraud artists and other criminals use the Internet to contact potential victims. Hardcore pornography, hate group propaganda, and other objectionable material are also plentiful on the Internet.

In September 2003, the District Attorney's Office unveiled a new initiative to protect children from these dangers. "Protecting Our Kids" is a comprehensive online program that helps parents gain control over the family computer and monitor their children's online activity. By offering straightforward pointers, useful tools, and easy-to-follow technical advice, P.O.K. can help even novice computer users protect their children on the Internet.

"As parents, we warn our children not to talk to strangers out on the street. But those same predators can now make contact with children over the family computer," the District Attorney said. "The Internet has brought that danger home. It also has given unsupervised teens more ways to get into trouble with the law."

P.O.K. – located at www.lacountyda.org – contains information on Instant Messaging, chat rooms, newsgroups, blogs, online games, and other concerns that exist online. The Web site also offers computer monitoring software that can help parents determine how the home computer is being used.

The District Attorney's Office has coordinated efforts with school districts, PTAs, law enforcement agencies, the County Department of Children and Family Services, and other prosecutorial offices to bring the program to the general public more effectively. In 2004, the office received a grant from the Los Angeles County Productivity Investment Fund to distribute the program's computer monitoring software to foster families throughout Los Angeles County.

Community Connections

San Fernando Valley Hate Crimes Alliance

The San Fernando Valley Hate Crimes Alliance aims to increase hate crimes reporting, support victims of hate crimes and incidents, and increase respect and appreciation for diversity. In 2003, the Hate Crimes Alliance – chaired by District Attorney staff – organized an elementary school poster contest to promote diversity appreciation. Students submitted posters with the theme: “We Are All Different, But We Can Play and Work Together.” The winning poster was then reproduced on donated billboard space in the San Fernando Valley. Students who participated in the poster contest (above) waited at the billboard site anxiously as the billboard art was unveiled (right).



Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (J.O.I.N.)

The District Attorney’s Office developed the Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (J.O.I.N.) program in 1996. It is the only program in Los Angeles County’s juvenile justice system that provides swift intervention and accountability *before* criminal prosecution. In a non-courtroom setting, juvenile offenders are held responsible, and crime victims receive the justice they deserve.

J.O.I.N. targets non-violent first-time offenders for diversion from the juvenile court process and offers immediate intervention and accountability. Criminal cases involving minors are typically presented to the District Attorney for filing consideration by the Probation Department, which

has determined the juvenile to be unsuitable for informal probation.

When appropriate, a juvenile is referred to a J.O.I.N. hearing officer. If the hearing officer determines the juvenile is suitable for pre-filing diversion, the juvenile and his/her parents are invited to participate in the program in lieu of prosecution.

The program is voluntary, and 90% of those who attend the hearing choose to participate. To be eligible, the minor must be a first-time offender between 10 and 17 years of age with a fileable juvenile petition involving a non-violent offense. Both the minor and parents must agree to the terms of the J.O.I.N. contract which require the minor to 1) acknowledge responsibility for his or her actions, 2) make restitution, 3) perform community service, 4) attend school regularly, 5) participate in counseling, and 6) remain arrest-free. The minor’s parents must agree to attend and participate in parenting skills classes.

If all terms are satisfied throughout the one-year term of the contract, the case is closed, and there is no filing. However, if a minor fails to complete the terms of the program within the prescribed time period, a petition is filed, and the minor is criminally prosecuted.

In 2003, the District Attorney’s Office expanded the J.O.I.N. program to all juvenile court offices countywide, which ensures that program services are provided close to the minor’s and parent’s residence.

An independent evaluation of the J.O.I.N. program published in 2004 showed that:

- The program in fiscal year 2003-2004 diverted at least 5.5% of Los Angeles County’s total juvenile court caseload;
- Over 88% of juvenile participants were on-track for completing their JOIN program commitment; and
- The program’s cost savings to the County and courts was over \$6,000 per youth participant – a total of \$24,000,000 since its inception

Over 4,000 juveniles have successfully completed the J.O.I.N. program. These minors are able to accurately state that they have never been charged with or prosecuted for a crime. As a result, their transgression will not affect future school or employment plans. In addition to the benefits to the individual participants, there are numerous additional and substantial benefits of the program, such as decreased recidivism and increased public safety.

J.O.I.N. has received several awards recognizing its innovative achievements in juvenile justice.



Outreach to Minority Media

The District Attorney’s Office, in collaboration with California New Media, conducted a July 15, 2004 all-morning seminar in its training center for more than 30 minority editors and reporters. In welcoming the group, District Attorney Steve Cooley called it an “historic first.”

The purpose of the seminar, a special project by the District Attorney media relations office, was to become better acquainted with the members of CNM and respond to questions related to the key role played by the District Attorney’s Office in the Los Angeles County criminal justice system.

Six prosecutors provided answers on such questions as the death penalty, public corruption, sex crimes, the three strikes law, hate crimes, consumer protection and immigration fraud.

The seminar was originally suggested by Jonathan M. Sanchez, associate publisher of Eastern Group Publications, to Joseph Scott, Director of Communications for the D.A. Scott subsequently contacted Julian Do, co-director of CNM, affiliated with the USC Annenberg School of Communication, to arrange the seminar.

Advances in Office Administration

Digital Archive

The District Attorney's Office began efforts to convert its three million archived paper case files to digital format in 2003, launching the "Digital Archive" project. Driven by constraints on warehouse space and a court decision requiring the department to preserve its case files for specified lengthy time periods, the project was funded with a \$2 million special grant from the County Quality and Productivity Commission.

The project's goal is to convert existing adult felony case files to digital format and begin the process of electronic creation, management and storage of new felony case files. This significant effort is on-track and set for implementation in mid-2005.

The District Attorney's Office agreed to partner with the sheriff's and probation departments to outsource the document imaging portion of the project. This has resulted in volume pricing and eliminated the need for the office to purchase scanning equipment and maintain its own specialized expertise. The Systems Division designed and implemented a new records tracking system for the Archives and Records units. It allows them to track boxes and prepare case files for imaging. Authorized user access to scanned case



files will be integrated into the Prosecutor Information Management System's Adult Case Management application.

Scanning archived case files will begin in Spring 2005. When the effort is in full production mode, the office anticipates processing 38,000 – 48,000 archived felony case files per month. This will allow the office to complete the processing of existing felony case files within three years.

The department plans to implement the new Digital Archive system office-wide on September 1, 2005.

Digital Archiving will achieve far-reaching benefits for the office. In addition to freeing up space in both the warehouse and branch offices, the project will save over \$400,000 per year in document storage costs. Fragile paper documents will now be preserved from further deterioration or destruction. Deputy district attorneys will have instantaneous access to archived cases, rather than the two to three days currently required to locate and send a paper case file.

When stored in digital format, a case file can be viewed simultaneously by multiple users, and cannot be "lost." Furthermore, the conversion to electronic format allows for future possibilities including full-text searches of case files and electronic filing and document exchange

with other agencies. The Digital Archive effort provides the foundation that will allow the office to stay current and competitive in the ever-changing world of document management technology.

Grants Activity 2003-04

The District Attorney's Bureau of Management and Budget's Grants Unit provides research, development and administration of local, state and federal funding proposals that support the department's prosecutorial mission and crime prevention and intervention programs. County general funds provide only about 50 percent of the District Attorney's budget. The department relies heavily on state and federal revenue sources, which carry the constant risk of declining or disappearing altogether.

In 2003-2004, a total of 277 positions in the District Attorney's Office were funded by grants and/or contracts from outside agencies.

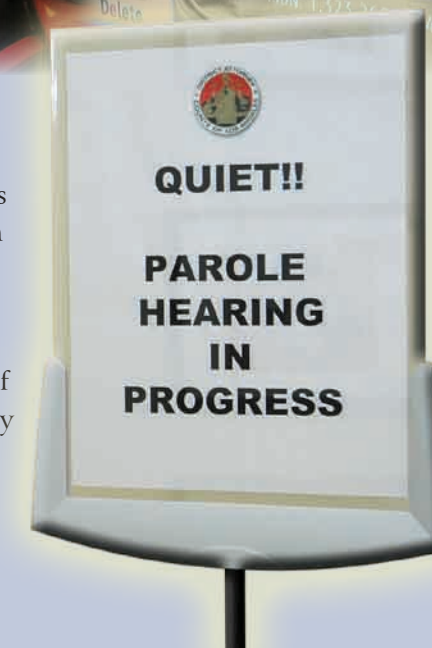
In 2001-2002, the department had 40 grants and 19 contracts or special funding sources and received approximately \$125 million in outside funding. Despite significant reductions in federal domestic spending and large state budget shortfalls, the department's outside funding grew to \$130 million in 2003-2004. In addition, in 2003-2004 the District Attorney's Office obtained \$7,664,367 in new Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative funds on behalf of the county, now awaiting distribution by the Board of Supervisors.

In addition to the new Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative funds, the District Attorney's Office successfully competed against 22 other county departments for the Quality & Productivity Commission's Special Grant Opportunity, obtaining \$2 million for the department's Digital Archive Project in 2003-2004. The Quality and Productivity Commission also funded expansion of the District Attorney's Lifer Hearings Video-Conferencing project, which greatly increased prosecutors' ability to appear at Board of Prison Terms Hearings via video-conference, thus significantly reducing out-of-county travel and personnel costs. Video conferences also allow for increased participation by victims who previously were not able to travel to prisons that are often in remote locations throughout the state.

Grant programs operated by the District Attorney's Office are also responsible for generating significant cost savings to the county. In 2004, the District Attorney's Major Narcotics Division's Drug Endangered Child Program received the Quality & Productivity

Commission's Bronze Eagle Award for excellence and cost effectiveness. The program saves the county criminal justice system more than \$2.5 million per year. The Victim-Witness Assistance Program, with a grant-funded operating budget in excess of \$7 million per year, brings more than \$20 million in restitution and victim

compensation into the County each year. The District Attorney's Abolish Chronic Truancy Program generates school revenue of \$2 for every \$1 dollar spent on the program. In 2003-2004, the JOIN Program diverted more than five percent of the total juvenile court caseload into a diversion program that saves the criminal justice system over \$6,000 per case, for a total savings approaching \$10 million.





Bureau of Investigation

The District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation continues to be one of the most flexible and highly skilled law enforcement agencies in the County. Headed by Chief G. Steve Simonian, a highly respected law enforcement veteran, it has continued to expand on the changes made during District Attorney Cooley's first term.

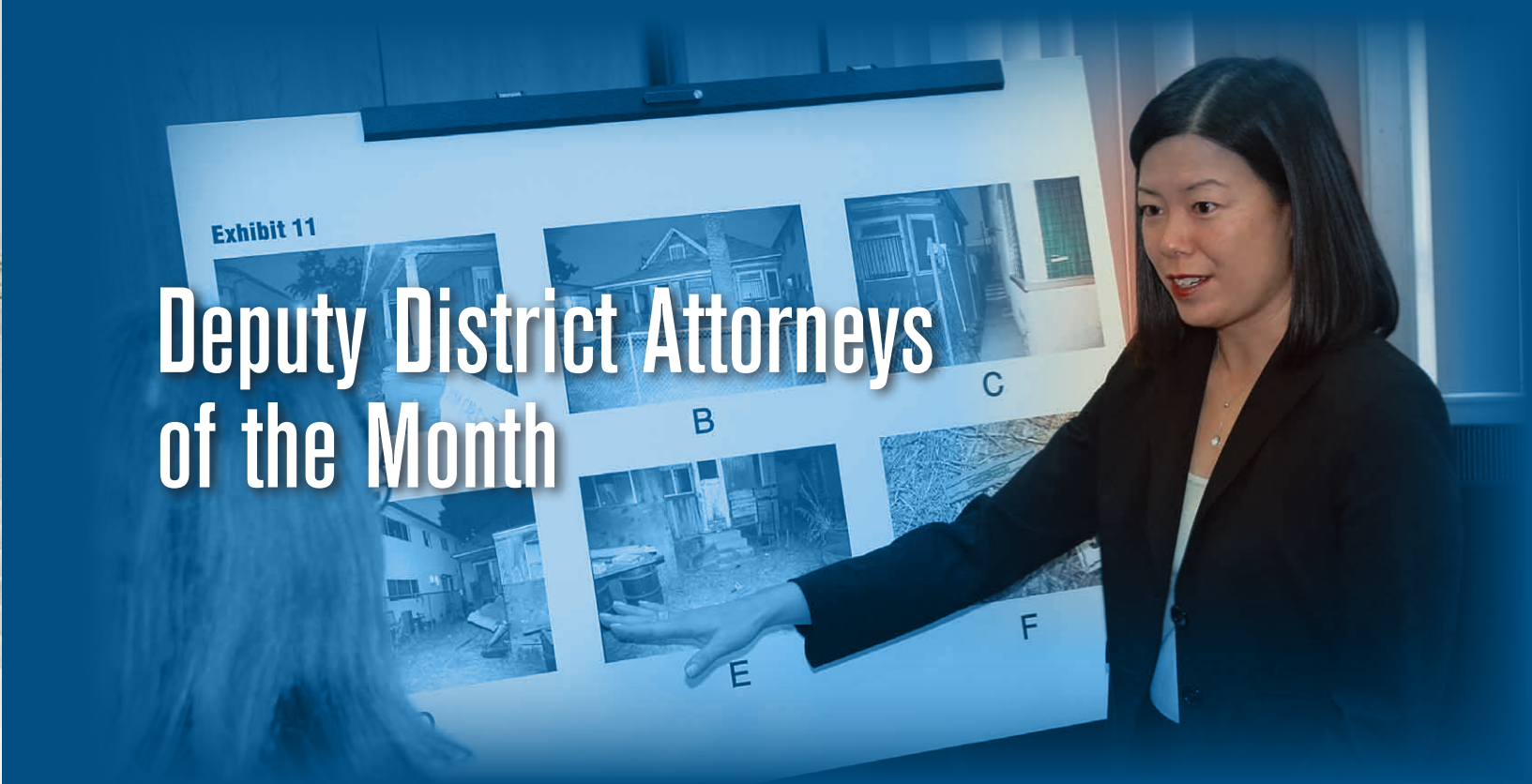
The Bureau has emerged as one of the main investigative components in the local effort against international and domestic terrorism. Cooley assigned an additional 10 investigators to combat potential sources of terrorism and to deter future terrorist acts. For example, these investigators look into crimes that can possibly provide funds for terrorist groups.

Another Bureau focus is the investigation and prosecution of attorneys who commit crimes. During the reporting period, 10 attorneys were investigated, prosecuted and found guilty. Through such investigations and prosecutions, the integrity of the criminal justice system is reinforced.

The Bureau continues to make a significant impact on public and political corruption. The Bureau's Public Integrity Unit is the leading local entity in investigations of crimes which threaten the integrity of the political process. The Bureau has had considerable success involving illegal campaign contributions. In a typical case, a major contributor will try to avoid legal limits on contributions by siphoning money through friends, family and employees. The object of this illegal ploy is obvious – to curry favor with the elected official who is the recipient of the funds.

The Bureau continues to lead the fight against fraud. The High Technology Crimes Investigation Unit remains on the cutting edge nationally in this fast-paced field, working closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service on cases, some of which may involve potential terrorist activities. The unit also investigates computer crimes and identity theft.

The Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Unit, Consumer Protection Unit, Auto Insurance Fraud Task Force, Major Fraud Unit and Real Estate Fraud Unit investigate cases which save consumers and tax payers millions of dollars. These cases result in major penalties for the people who devise these sophisticated crimes, which are often multi-jurisdictional and often involve many defendants and victims.



Deputy District Attorneys of the Month

Alan Fork/January 2003



Alan Fork joined the District Attorney's Office in 1974. He received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for successfully prosecuting the La Luz De Oro (Light of Gold) case, involving a remarkably successful pyramid scheme which enticed over 16,000 people to join. The case came to light after the Better Business Bureau and the Spanish language media received complaints from victims in the winter of 2000-2001. Ten defendants were indicted by the Grand Jury on 28 counts of grand theft, securities fraud, tax evasion, and the aggravated white collar crime enhancement. The discovery material alone encompassed 60,000 documents, and the total amount of loss to the victims was \$15 to \$20 million. The trial court severed the case into two trials. The first trial started on September 13, 2002, and concluded with guilty verdicts for each defendant on October 25, 2002. The prosecution called over 50 witnesses and used over 100 exhibits. The second trial began on November 21, 2002, and concluded with all guilty verdicts on January 7, 2003. The prosecution called over 40 witnesses and again used over 100 exhibits. Mr. Fork was recognized for his organizational skills and his ability to handle this extremely complex case with multiple defendants and thousands of victims.

Tal Kahana/February 2003



Tal Kahana joined the District Attorney's Office in 1995. She received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for successfully prosecuting the "The Fast Food Chicken Bandit" case. The case involved three suspects who committed a series of armed robberies of fast food restaurants. They only committed the robberies in pairs and would take turns acting as the getaway driver. They committed the robberies between 8:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. All of the robbery locations were in mini-malls that had an alley running behind them, bordered residential neighborhoods and were within two miles of a freeway onramp. The suspects disguised themselves with baseball caps pulled down over their faces and bulky jackets to hide their body style and weight. The police got their big break when they showed a blurry photo of one suspect at a news conference which was televised. Apparently, Anthony Almendariz, who worked at a methadone clinic, recognized himself and bragged to a client addict, "Did you see me on TV?" The addict promptly called his parole agent, who contacted the police. Suspect Almendariz was killed in a shoot-out with the police. Another suspect, Carlos Cumplido escaped to Mexico and is still at large. The third suspect, William Tanielian, led police on a high

speed pursuit and eventually crashed his car, killing one civilian and severely injuring another. While in custody, he tried to escape by attacking a nurse and choking her until she was unconscious. Tanielian was charged with one count of murder, one count of evading with injury, numerous counts of armed robbery and attempted armed robbery, one count of felon with a firearm, and one count of assault. The defendant was convicted by the jury of all counts within two hours.

Tina Hansen & Kevin Young/March 2003



Tina Hansen joined the District Attorney's Office in 1985; Kevin Young joined the office in 1986. They both received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for serving as the first deputies assigned to the Brady Compliance Unit. The unit was created as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brady v. Maryland*, which stated that defense attorneys must be informed of any questionable activities or tactics attributed to a police officer involved in a case. The Brady unit is responsible for fulfilling this obligation. Ms. Hansen and Mr.

Young blazed a trail for other deputy district attorneys to follow. They spent every day analyzing hundreds of pages of crime and investigative reports to determine if there was Brady material against the police officer or government employed expert in the cases they reviewed. They were determined to see that justice was done both for the accused police officers and for potential defendants in the officers' cases. Ms. Hansen had the responsibility for reviewing all Justice System Integrity Division case filings and Public Integrity Division filings after January 1, 1997. Some of her reviews involved as many as ten cardboard boxes full of reports and transcripts. Mr. Young had the primary responsibility for reviewing the entire Rampart investigation. Some documents in the Rampart investigation contain 100,000 pages.

Margo Baxter/April 2003



Margo Baxter joined the District Attorney's Office in 1994. She received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for her outstanding prosecution of Joseph Evan Robinson – a Los Angeles Police Department officer who raped three women while he was on-duty. Robinson selected his first victim when he and his partner stopped a car at 64th Street and Figueroa. Robinson learned that the female in the car had an outstanding warrant and took her into an alley where he raped her while his partner detained her boyfriend. Robinson found his next victim when he and his partner entered a motel room in which she was sleeping with her boyfriend. Robinson's partner took the boyfriend out of the motel room. Robinson remained behind, handcuffed his victim, and sexually assaulted her in the bathroom and again in the bedroom. He then told her, "I'm the police and I will do anything I want." Robinson found his next victim while she was waiting for a bus on Figueroa Street. He forced her into his patrol car, drove her to a secluded area, handcuffed her and raped her in the back seat of the patrol car, while his partner was booking another suspect at 77th Street Station. Ms. Baxter inherited this case when she was transferred to the Justice System Integrity Division. She began interviewing witnesses even before her transfer date. The trial lasted from December 10, 2002, to January 7, 2003. Ms. Baxter arrived daily in her office before sunrise and stayed until after sundown poring over records and listening to audiotapes of radio transmissions. Not only did the defendant have two attorneys, but some prosecution witnesses had their own attorneys and were friendly with the defendant. With few officers willing to testify about what happened and inconclusive DNA evidence, Ms. Baxter had to piece together the defendant's and his partner's work day using Daily Field Activity Reports, radio logs and computer logs. Robinson's partner, who witnessed Robinson's movements, testified on direct examination that he couldn't remember anything. But after a weekend off the stand to think about it, he experienced sudden recall and could remember everything in a light favorable to the defendant. In spite of all these difficulties, Ms. Baxter skillfully presented complex pieces of evidence and convinced the jury to convict Officer Robinson. Robinson is currently serving a life term.

Jessica Goulden/May 2003



Jessica Goulden joined the District Attorney's Office in 1992. She received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for her appellate work on two cases from Central Operations. In both cases, the defendants made unsuccessful motions at the preliminary hearing stage to disclose confidential police surveillance locations and renewed their motions again in the trial court. The trial court judge granted the defendants' motions and ordered the police to provide the defense attorneys and their investigators with full access to the surveillance locations. The judge ordered a 30-day stay of execution in both cases to allow time for the District Attorney's Appellate Division to take a writ on the decision. Ms. Goulden handled the writs on both cases. Unlike an appeal, a writ petition involves getting certified copies of minute orders, transcripts and exhibits, in addition to doing the research and the writing. In writ proceedings, the only record in the appellate court is the record provided by the parties. The time available for gathering the record and doing the research and writing is much more limited than it is in an appeal. Since the transcripts of the in-camera hearings were sealed, Ms. Goulden had to interview the officers who participated in the hearings and prepare detailed declarations. She also had to secure various minute orders to fill in the details. Our options were to reveal the surveillance locations and risk death or injury to some innocent civilians or to dismiss the cases and allow dangerous felons to go free. Ms. Goulden worked tirelessly on the appeal and composed clear, concise and persuasive points and authorities supporting our position for writ of mandate. In April 2003, the Court of Appeal issued a temporary stay on the trial court. In May 2003, the Court of Appeal issued a permanent stay of execution on the trial court with the alternative that the trial court appear at an Order to Show Cause hearing on why the stay should not be issued. The Superior Court judge chose to fight the stay and appeared at the Order to Show Cause hearing. On July 7, 2003, the Court of Appeal issued an unpublished opinion finding that the trial court had abused its discretion in ordering the disclosure of the surveillance locations without a finding of materiality under Evidence Code section 1042 and granted the petition for a writ. Ms. Goulden's commitment to excellence in

her appellate work permitted the police and her fellow prosecutors to secure convictions in these cases while protecting the collaborative crime fighting efforts of law enforcement and the citizens of the community.

Thomas Robinson & Phillip Stirling/June 2003



Tom Robinson joined the District Attorney's Office in 1990, and Phil Stirling joined the office in 1992. They both received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for prosecuting a South Los Angeles murder case involving the notorious defendant, Damien "Football" Williams. Williams previously was convicted of beating truck driver Reginald Denny. That crime occurred during the civil disturbance in Los Angeles following the acquittals of the L.A.P.D. officers in the videotaped beating of Rodney King. The 2003 case was very complicated, both factually and legally. The defendants committed a takeover of a drug house operated by the murder victim. When defendant Williams entered, he announced his well-known street name of "Football" and his gang affiliation. He demanded that the operator of the house be summoned. When he was alerted that the drug house operator was approaching the front door, Williams told co-defendant, Killingsworth, "You know what to do. Don't let me down." Killingsworth struggled with the victim at the front door then shot him in the leg. As the injured victim ran from the house, Killingsworth fired additional shots and killed him. The case was extremely difficult. All of the percipient witnesses were longtime crack addicts, and many had significant limitations on their ability to recollect, concentrate and communicate clearly. The unsympathetic victim was a drug dealer with a long criminal record who had a reputation for harsh reprisals against anyone who crossed him and who had come to the scene angry and carrying a gun. Finally, both defendants were gang members, which meant that witnesses were subject to intimidation and threats. The case involved not only murder, but felony-murder, lying in wait, robbery, burglary, grand theft, extortion, and conspiracy. Nevertheless, after

two weeks of jury deliberations, both defendants were convicted of second degree murder along with firearm and gang allegations and enhancements for multiple prior convictions including strikes. It is unlikely that either will ever be released from prison.

John McKinney/July 2003



John McKinney joined the District Attorney's Office in 1998. He received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for his outstanding work in *People v. Joel Escobedo*. The case involved four counts of child molestation of 11-year-old Jackie, a foster child living in the home of the defendant's cousin. On four consecutive nights in July 2002, the defendant entered Jackie's bedroom in the middle of the night and molested her. He performed a variety of sexual acts with her and each time gave her some money. Jackie was afraid to tell her foster mother about what happened. She correctly surmised that the foster mother would not believe her and would side with the defendant. After Jackie told one of her school friends about the molestation, her friend's mother reported it to the sheriff's department. When a detective confronted the foster mother, she said that what Jackie had alleged could never have happened because Escobedo never spent the night at her house. Later, the foster mother said she had lied to the detective and that Escobedo had slept one night in the garage. However, she insisted that the door from the garage to the house was locked and Escobedo would not have been able to get inside. Mr. McKinney had no corroboration for Jackie's story. He did an excellent job of graining the trust of Jackie and established a great rapport with her during her courtroom testimony. Jackie spent a full day on the stand during the trial. Mr. McKinney made excellent PowerPoint presentations during his opening statements and arguments. For his opening statement, he filmed the path Escobedo had taken from his sleeping area in the garage upstairs to Jackie's bedroom. He forcefully pointed out to the jurors that they had now spent a week in court with a pedophile. He emphasized the damage that Escobedo had done by robbing Jackie of her innocence. Mr. McKinney was at his best when he passionately defended the credibility of Jackie. Through outstanding

case preparation and compelling arguments, Mr. McKinney overcame a very difficult case and convinced the jurors of the defendant's guilt. The jury deliberated only one hour before returning four guilty verdicts. The defendant was sentenced to 16 years in state prison.

Patrick J. Sequeira/August 2003



Patrick J. Sequeira has tried more than 100 felony jury trials – including 30 murders – since joining the District Attorney's Office in 1981. One case in particular, *People v. Marcus Adams*, earned him the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for his work on the Unsolved Gang Homicide Task Force. Adams, a hardcore gang member, killed three rival gang members as they were sitting in a car in September 1994. A few weeks later, Adams and his fellow gang members went on a crime spree that involved the successful takeover robbery of \$151,000 from a credit union in Oceanside and the attempted robbery of a credit union in Santa Monica. During the failed robbery, Adams shot a security guard and carjacked a vehicle from a woman to aid the escape. In October 1994, Adams was arrested and charged with the murders of the rival gang members. The case was dismissed the following year, however, because the sole identification witness recanted the statements he had made to police and refused to cooperate. Adams, meantime, went to prison on a parole violation. Three weeks after his release, he and three members of his gang committed a takeover of a credit union in Lompoc. One of Adams' partners shot a customer who was walking on crutches and a young mother of three who had her 10-year-old son with her. Adams fled to Las Vegas, where he was caught stealing food from a convenience store. The details of the crime in Lompoc had been broadcast on "America's Most Wanted," which led to a speedy identification by police. Adams and the three other gang members were charged with murder and special circumstances of murder in the commission of a robbery. While awaiting trial, Adams, one of his co-defendants and a third inmate escaped from jail and carjacked a vehicle driven by a woman. All three were apprehended a short time later. Adams was convicted in Santa Barbara County of the charges

stemming from the escape and carjacking, as well as the bank robbery and murder in Lompoc. He was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole in 1999. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office re-filed the 1994 triple murder case after the man who had recanted his eyewitness testimony in 1995 agreed to cooperate with police. He explained that he had recanted his previous testimony because Adams and others had threatened his life. Mr. Sequeira searched for still more witnesses and evidence. He tracked down a woman who had witnessed the triple murders. A drug addict at the time, she had been very uncooperative with police. Mr. Sequeira found her in state prison, where she had decided that she needed to change her life. She told him that she could indeed identify Adams as the killer. She said she had also been the target of death threats in 1994. Mr. Sequeira also found two fellow gang member associates of Adams who were imprisoned, but willing to testify that he admitted to them that he had killed the three victims. The two-month trial started in March 2003. It included 82 witnesses for the prosecution and 14 for the defense. The jury rejected the defendant's claim that he had committed the murders in the "heat of passion" because the rival gang killed his brother in 1986. Adams was found guilty of all three murders, a sentence which made him eligible for the death penalty. During the penalty phase, Adams presented a novel defense. He claimed that he had a gene that made him more prone to violent behavior. That genetic predisposition, combined with childhood abuse, caused him to be more prone to commit violence as an adult, he claimed. Mr. Sequeira successfully argued against that defense and, on May 20, 2003, the jury rendered a verdict of death.

Peter Bliss/September 2003



Peter Bliss joined the District Attorney's Office in 1992. He received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for his outstanding work on the case of *People v. Abdul-Malik, Devore and Rodgers*. The trial began on May 20, 2003, and ended with the conviction of all the defendants on July 22, 2003. The case was a very challenging and complex special circumstance murder involving three gang members and dual juries.

On December 13, 2000, victim Eugene Greene and his girlfriend were sitting in his parked car. The three defendants drove up to the location to commit a carjacking. Two defendants approached the victims while the other waited in the car. When the victim struggled with the defendants, they fatally shot him in the head and stole the car. The victim's car was found abandoned about three miles away, where it had been crashed. No one identified any of the defendants as being at the crime scene or at the crash site after they fled. Although one defendant made admissions to police, he also claimed that one of the other two defendants was not involved in the crime. To prove his case against all three defendants, Mr. Bliss had to use a variety of circumstantial evidence. The evidence included: dog-tracked scent evidence that two of the defendants had sat in the victim's car; one defendant's fingerprint on the exterior of the victim's car; and DNA evidence from a hat found along the route between the crime scene and where the victim's car was found. All three defendants were convicted and are now serving thirty-four years to life in state prison. Mr. Bliss has done outstanding work for the Hardcore Gang Division in many communities including Antelope Valley, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Altadena and Pomona.

Jonathan Fairtlough/October 2003



Jonathan Fairtlough joined the District Attorney's Office in 1994. He received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for his outstanding work in the High Tech Crime Unit. Since his assignment to the High Tech Crime Unit, Mr. Fairtlough has been responsible for the filing and prosecution of over 70 high tech cases. Many of these cases have been large and complex computer fraud cases. For example, Jonathan prosecuted the world's largest counterfeit computer software case. In *People v. Chin*, Mr. Fairtlough obtained a nine-year prison sentence and a \$90 million restitution order against the U.S. head of the counterfeiting ring. He has also prosecuted the state's largest eBay auction fraud case. In *People v. Kim*, Mr. Fairtlough obtained a three-year prison sentence and an order to pay restitution of \$600,000 to over 200 victims. Mr. Fairtlough also prosecuted the case of *People v. Arroyo and Yunis*, which was a

complex fraud/identity theft case from the Van Nuys Branch Office. The defendants in this case operated a series of fraudulent “music schools” throughout Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. The defendants targeted Spanish-speaking parents and told them that their child had won a scholarship for free music lessons at the defendants’ school. Using a variety of tactics, the defendants were able to obtain credit accounts under the parents’ names. The defendants also sold the parents a “bond” in a company with a promise that the interest would pay for the lessons and they would get all of their money back at the conclusion of the lessons. A few months after opening the “school” and draining all the available credit on the accounts they opened, the defendants would close the school and move on to a different area. They would then use the stolen identity of a parent of one their former students to obtain leases and bank accounts for their new “school.” There were 116 identified individual victims and six corporate victims. The defendants were responsible for taking over \$2.3 million. One defendant used the stolen money to fund the recording of an album and the making of a music video. The other defendant used the credit cards of several victims to fund a sex change operation. After one of the defendants fled the country, “America’s Most Wanted” featured the case on their show. One defendant was located in Costa Rica, and Mr. Fairtlough had to put together an international extradition warrant. In September 2003, he obtained a plea from Yunis that resulted in her being sentenced to 12 years in state prison. In addition to handling cases, Mr. Fairtlough has become one of the state’s foremost authorities on identity theft and high tech crimes. Mr. Fairtlough has taught at almost every Peace Officers Standards and Training “Identity Theft” class held in southern California, educating over five hundred police officers about the crime. He has also provided training to the F.B.I., the Association of Financial Crime Investigators, the District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation, the Southern California High Tech Crimes Task Force, the County Prosecutors Association, and the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) and was a keynote speaker at a High Technology Crime Investigation Association Conference.

Alison Matsumoto/November 2003



Alison Matsumoto joined the District Attorney’s Office in 1998 after working in Sacramento as a deputy district attorney. She received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for her exceptional work in three back-to-back jury trials. The first trial, an attempted murder, hung 11-1 for guilt. The second and third trials resulted in convictions for first degree murder. In *People v. Flores*, which began on November 7, 2003, the female victim, who was a homeless crack addict, was shot in the face by the defendant after an argument. She was the sole witness to the crime and was not a sympathetic victim. To make matters worse, she was arrested for selling drugs after the preliminary hearing. In addition, the judge made an erroneous legal call by allowing into evidence the defendant’s self-serving statement without requiring him to testify. Ms. Matsumoto put together all the circumstantial evidence she had to support the eyewitness identification and almost prevailed. *People v. Salgado* began the day after the *Flores* case ended. This first degree murder case involved a defendant who shot his friend for no apparent reason. Ms. Matsumoto’s key witnesses were the victim’s common-law wife and his daughter, a very courageous eight-year-old who saw Salgado shoot her father. The challenge was to properly prepare this young girl for a competency hearing and for the jury trial. By the time the young girl testified, she not only survived the competency hearing, but was a devastating witness for the People. The defense was an alibi. Ms. Matsumoto skillfully presented her witnesses. She cross-examined the defendant and his mother, effectively undermining his alibi. The jury convicted Salgado of first degree murder with the use of a firearm. The Salgado case ended the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and *People v. Butler* began the following Monday. Butler had received a fair amount of publicity, largely because the victim was a fourteen-year-old honor student and because L.A.P.D. Chief Bratton had highlighted the case in the press. There was one eyewitness to the murder, a former teacher of Butler’s. However the teacher immediately recanted her identification. Ms. Matsumoto’s key witnesses were teachers who had heard the original identification. The defendant had also told another teacher that he would not be at school because, “I have to clear my name in

some mess.” The teacher who heard this statement also recanted, and the impeaching witness was another teacher, who was the witness’ mother. Finally, one of the prosecution’s witnesses was so concerned that the defendant would get away with murder that she called the police and lied, claiming to have been present when the killing took place. Ms. Matsumoto worked with these civilian witnesses, gaining their trust and convincing them that testifying was the right thing to do. She also put together a masterful PowerPoint presentation for her opening statement and opening argument. She artfully impeached her eyewitness, convincing the jury that her original statement to her fellow teachers was accurate and truthful. The jury returned a conviction of first degree murder with the use of a firearm.

Susan Navas/December 2003



Susan Navas joined the District Attorney’s Office in 1998. She received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for her outstanding work in two back-to-back trials, *People v. Nungary* and *People v. Himes*. Her strong work ethic and her talent as a trial lawyer overcame monumental obstacles posed by the daunting circumstances of the two cases. In *Nungary*, the defendant was charged with the robbery murder of a liquor store owner. The crime remained unsolved until Ms. Navas prosecuted him two years later for an independent robbery. Once the investigators determined that the same .22 caliber rifle had been used in the robbery murder and the robbery for which the defendant was convicted, Ms. Navas worked tirelessly in the neighborhood where the robberies were committed to develop a murder case against Nungary. Although there were no known eyewitnesses to the murder, Ms. Navas’ repeated visits to the area earned her the confidence of the local residents who offered piecemeal information that she later introduced at trial. Despite the fact that the gun used in the two robberies belonged not to the defendant, but to a third party, Ms. Navas ultimately obtained justice for a family that had been convinced that the murder of their loved one would never be solved. After the defendant was sentenced to 50 years to life in state prison consecutive to the term for the first robbery, the murder victim’s brother echoed the thoughts of Ms. Navas’ fellow prosecutors

when he told her, “Susan, you are one in a million.” In *Himes*, the defendant robbed a woman of her purse containing her car keys. The crime went unreported until a month later when the defendant used the keys to steal the victim’s car with a passenger inside and drove it into a lamp post. When the police asked the robbery victim to review photos in a mug shot show-up folder, she identified someone other than the defendant as her assailant. The misidentification was inadvertently left out of the police report. A second detective tried again and once again she picked the photo of someone other than the defendant. This time the photo show-up was documented in the police report, but the detective mistakenly wrote that the victim had identified the defendant as the man who had robbed her. When the assigned detective transported the victim to court, he tried to help her out by showing her the show-up folder she had looked at twice before. During her trial testimony, the robbery victim was as confused as ever and insisted that the defendant and the man whose photograph she had mistakenly identified were one and the same. Ms. Navas’ powers of persuasion prevailed and the defendant was convicted. This second strike defendant is now serving a term of 20 years, eight months in state prison.

John Lewin/January 2004



John Lewin joined the District Attorney’s Office in 1994. He received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for his work on cold cases in the Forensic Sciences Section, *People v. Thomas Freeman* and *People v. Arturo Gutierrez*. In *People v. Freeman*, the defendant’s prostitute girlfriend, who had apparently falsely accused him of rape, disappeared near Christmas of 1999. She was never seen again and stopped corresponding with everyone, including her own small children who lived with relatives in another state. Freeman’s roommates in Redondo Beach reported seeing stains that looked like blood on the floor of his room and on the mattress he left behind when he moved out three months after his girlfriend’s disappearance. The blood was matched to the victim through DNA analysis. The defendant insisted that the blood was menstrual blood, but Mr. Lewin found a medical expert who testified that the amount of blood was too great to be menstrual blood. Mr. Lewin tracked

down and called numerous witnesses to demonstrate that the victim would not have just disappeared of her own volition. The defense was that the victim, a heroin-addicted transient, must still be alive or that she had overdosed at an unknown time or place. Following a trial that lasted 10 weeks and included the testimony of more than 50 witnesses, Freeman was found guilty of second degree murder and sentenced to 15 years to life in state prison. People v. Gutierrez was a case in which a 25-year-old woman had been found suffocated to death in her residence in 1989. The defendant, Arturo Gutierrez, was one of several suspects at the time of the murder because he had a previous relationship with the victim. Gutierrez tried to manufacture an alibi defense for the time of her murder, but the friend he asked to cover for him would not lie to the police. Nevertheless, the evidence was insufficient to file murder charges until a more sophisticated DNA analysis positively matched the defendant to cigarette butts left in a kitchen trash can at the crime scene. The victim was known to empty her kitchen trash can multiple times each day because of her obsessive compulsive habits relating to neatness and organization. The presence of Gutierrez's cigarette butts was inconsistent with his statement that he had not been to her house for two or three months. Mr. Lewin developed evidence of the victim's habits and customs through the testimony of many people who knew her well. After a trial involving the testimony of 35 witnesses, the defendant was convicted by the jury of first degree murder and sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison.

Carlos Chung/February 2004



Carlos Chung joined the District Attorney's Office in 1995. He received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for prosecuting five consecutive murder trials over the course of two months. The first two trials involved three gang members who tricked a 67-year-old man into stopping his van on a remote desert road for the purpose of robbing him. During the robbery, they murdered him and drove away. The three gang members then committed two home invasion robberies in which they cut the power and phone lines to each house and shot their way into the homes. They left two people critically injured. One of the three gang members was shot and

killed by deputies when he pointed a gun at them. The remaining two gang members were convicted. The last three trials arose out of a case involving four gang members who lured a victim to a mobile home park. Two of the gang members attacked the victim and dragged him into a mobile home unit where they beat and strangled him to death. They then took his body out into the remote desert and burned it beyond recognition. Two witnesses fled the state, and another key witness ran away from the taxi that was sent to bring him to court. Detectives finally convinced him to come to court. However, while waiting to testify he committed an assault on his girlfriend in the courthouse hallway. He fled into the courtroom where another witness was testifying and was cornered by bailiffs. All four defendants were convicted of murder.

Terry Bork & Kerry White/March 2004



Terry Bork joined the District Attorney's Office in 1988; Kerry White joined in 1984. They both received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for their work on People v. Omar Bradley, et al, which resulted from a major political corruption investigation by the Public Integrity Division, the Bureau of Investigation and the Los Angeles County Grand Jury. Felony indictments for misappropriation of public funds were handed down against five current and former Compton city officials: former two-term Mayor Omar Bradley, City Manager John Johnson, and three members of the City Council – Amen Rahh, Delores Zurita and Yvonne Arceneaux. Between the time of the indictments and trial, City Council members Zurita and Rahh lost their bids for re-election. Mr. Bork and Mr. White took their case to Compton where the crimes took place. In the pretrial stage, Mr. Bork wrote over 40 motions, opposition papers and briefs defending the investigation and indictment against attacks by the six defense attorneys. The prosecution prevailed on every motion. During trial, Mr. Bork and Mr. White served as co-prosecutors, splitting duties equally. On February 10, 2004, after more than 13 weeks of trial, the jury returned guilty verdicts against former Mayor Bradley, City Manager Johnson and Council Member Rahh.

The two other defendants were acquitted. The convicted defendants were immediately remanded to custody. On May 13, 2004, Bradley and Johnson were sentenced to three years in state prison, and Rahh was sentenced to one year in county jail.

Laura Walton-Everett/April 2004



Laura Walton-Everett joined the District Attorney's Office in 1995. She received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for her successful prosecution of a multiple defendant gang-related murder, People v. Reyes and Gonzales. On January 11, 2003, the defendants, who were members of the Florencia 13 gang, drove into rival gang territory where they saw a half-dozen males drinking beer. An argument ensued, and multiple shots were fired from the passenger side of the defendants' van. In an attempt to stop the shooting, one of the victims threw a beer bottle at the van, shattering the side window. During the shooting, two victims were hit; one later died. All witnesses to the shooting had been drinking heavily. The van immediately fled the scene and was stopped less than a mile from the crime scene. The van's side window was shattered, and beer was splattered on the side of the van. Defendant Reyes was the passenger and had glass fragments and a wet beer stain on his sweatshirt. However, no gun, bullets or casings were found in the van. Witnesses were taken to the van for a field show-up, but the witnesses could not positively identify either the defendants or the van. Although the defendants' hands were bagged for gunshot residue collection, the samples were not taken until the defendants had been booked and fingerprinted five hours later. Defendant Gonzales had only one particle of gunshot residue on his hand, which the defense argued was the result of cross contamination. Defendant Reyes had none on his hand, but several particles on his sweatshirt. Reyes testified that he had worn the sweatshirt while firing a gun on New Year's Eve. He also had another explanation for the beer on his sweatshirt and claimed that the van window was broken earlier at a bar. Broken auto and beer bottle glass were found at the crime scene. A criminalist collected a sample of the auto glass from the scene and from the van. The lead detective was the only collector of the beer bottle glass

from the crime scene, which he placed in an envelope and put in the trunk of his car. The beer bottle glass was not tested for six months. The defense argued that the detective manufactured the beer bottle glass after he found out that beer bottle glass was found on defendant Reyes' sweatshirt. Thus, the case became a battle of the glass experts. The prosecution's glass expert testified that although no exact match could be made, the auto glass left at the scene was consistent with the glass on the van and that the glass on defendant Reyes was consistent with beer bottle glass at the crime scene. The defense expert testified that all auto and beer bottle glass is mass-produced and no match could ever be made. To make matters more difficult, the judge refused to dismiss a juror after it was discovered mid-trial that the juror was a defendant awaiting trial in a Long Beach case – something he failed to disclose in voir dire. Ms. Walton-Everett's tenacity and skilled advocacy resulted in the defendants being convicted of second degree murder with the gang and gun allegations found true.

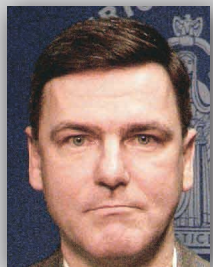
Truc T. Do/May 2004



Truc Do joined the District Attorney's Office in 1999. She received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for her outstanding work in the case of People v. Adams, Cammons and Smith. The three defendants committed an armed home invasion robbery. Three young victims, ages 16, 12 and seven, were home alone when the defendants entered. The victims were put in a closet while the defendants ransacked the house. One of the victims managed to escape and call 911. By the time the S.W.A.T. team arrived, the defendants had all fled. According to the police reports, the oldest victim was the only one able to make an identification, and there were no other witnesses. None of the stolen property was recovered, no fingerprint evidence was found, and each defendant had an alibi. The defendants were so confident that they would not be convicted, they refused to participate in plea negotiations. Ms. Do received the case the week before Christmas and went to work to salvage it. She began by re-interviewing all the witnesses with the help of a District Attorney investigator. Some witnesses disclosed other witnesses who could place the defendants at the scene and in each other's

company. The defense attorneys complained about late discovery. During the trial, witnesses testified to facts not contained in the police reports, including additional identifications. This turned out to be a case of skimpy police report writing, not witness embellishment. The investigating officer ultimately admitted that he failed to include material statements in his report. Thus, Ms. Do had to rehabilitate her witnesses, explain the lack of investigation and destroy three alibis. The trial lasted two weeks, and all three defendants were convicted of multiple counts of robbery with gun allegations. Each was sentenced to a lengthy state prison term.

Donald Jakubowski/June 2004



Donald Jakubowski has tried more than 131 felony jury trials since joining the District Attorney's Office in 1984. He received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for his work on the case of People v. Lorenzo Segura. Segura was charged with murder and attempted murder stemming from two related shootings in 1995. The prosecution contended that the defendant had tracked down the man who had stolen his vehicle, Miguel Aparicio, and shot him in the arm. The next day, Segura also shot and killed the alleged car thief's step-uncle and a second victim. He was on the run for the next eight years. Jakubowski was faced with two big problems – the long lapse of time and the poor quality of the witnesses' testimony. The alleged car thief who had been shot lied to the police in 1995 about the reasons for the shooting. During the trial, the man was imprisoned and denied knowing anything about a shooting. In addition, key physical evidence had been inadvertently destroyed, and the defendant had procured an alibi. Despite these obstacles, Jakubowski pieced his case together, impeaching the alleged car thief's testimony while destroying the defendant's alibi. Segura was found guilty of first degree murder, second degree murder and the multiple murders with special circumstance.

Corene Locke-Noble/July 2004



Corene Locke-Noble, who joined the office in 1984, received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for achieving what no other deputy district attorney ever has: She received three death verdicts based on the same set of facts in three separate, back-to-back trials. The cases of People v. Warren Hardy, Kevin Pearson and Jamelle Armstrong involved the same scenario: On December 29, 1998, Penny Keppta was walking to a store in her neighborhood between 10:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. As she walked under the 405 Freeway near Long Beach Boulevard and East Wardlow Road, she was approached by three men. They surrounded her and demanded money. She struggled as they searched her clothes. The men knocked her down, punched her repeatedly and dragged her down a concrete drainage ditch. They then took turns raping her. During the rapes, a defendant tripped over a wooden stake. It was then used to "make a batch of butter," as one defendant put it. A sliver of wood was found about six or seven inches inside the victim's vagina. The stake was never recovered. Police found Keppta's body at the scene, along with one of her shoes and the cover of her food stamp booklet. An autopsy revealed that she had suffered more than 100 injuries. The defendants were caught when one of them told a friend that he had been involved in a murder. Each of the defendants blamed another for the rapes. When it came time to try the case, the only evidence of the rape was in the form of a shirt that belonged to one of the defendants. It had been found with semen on it at his mother's house. No other semen was found. Locke-Noble spent more than 10 months trying the three cases. She unturned new, powerful evidence that included DNA revealing the victim's blood on each of the defendants' clothing worn that night. All of the defendants were convicted and received the death penalty. Locke-Noble's legal acumen was inspiring to her fellow prosecutors. She was extremely courteous to the defense counsel and the court, but insisted that things be done by the book – an essential in death cases. Her dedication and skillful trial work make Locke-Noble a model prosecutor.

Jennifer Lentz Snyder/August 2004



Jennifer Snyder joined the District Attorney's Office in 1989. She received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for her successful prosecution of People v. UCRA and Angelita Gonzales. Gonzalez, the executive director of UCRA, a non-profit Los Angeles County service agency, was convicted of misappropriating more than \$2 million in county funds. UCRA administered programs through the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and Community and Senior Services for participants who were required to seek employment and participate in job-related training. DPSS said it lacked the necessary resources to participate in the program and in 1998, contracted out to provide services under the Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) program for recipients of CalWORKS assistance. UCRA was under contract to provide such services for 14 different county and city programs. The agency was shut down after a search warrant operation yielded thousands of documents and the seizure of bank accounts containing several million dollars. Ms. Snyder and Senior Investigator Roger Compton built a strong and persuasive case resulting in a plea at the arraignment by UCRA, which surrendered any claim to the \$2.5 million seized from frozen bank accounts. The defendant billed the county for employment-related services that were never provided to participants required to complete such training in order to continue receiving public assistance. Workers were threatened by the defendant if they did not produce the impossible numbers of falsified client files she demanded. The defendant sent workers to locations subject to audit to clean the files and prepare paperwork in order to avoid detection by county auditors. After a trial lasting nearly a month, the jury returned guilty verdicts for misappropriation, false billing and concealment of records. The defendant, a 69-year-old woman with a litany of personal problems and no criminal history, was sentenced to four years in state prison. The recovery of more than \$2.4 million in county funds was lauded by the Board of Supervisors and provided significant mitigation of the losses incurred as a result of the fraud. Additionally, the audit process was revamped in order to prevent similar cases in the future and to promote the early detection of potential losses.

Tamara Hall/September 2004



Tamara Hall joined the District Attorney's Office in 1999. She received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for her first murder case, People v. Ronald Ahumada. The case involved the murder of Damion Collins and was the result of an ongoing war between the Eastside Nutthood Watts gang and the Southside Nutthood Watts gang. On December 8, 2002, Damion, Jesse and Eddie were in front of Eddie's house when they saw a car drive slowly by. Damion yelled, "Watch that car!" Eddie turned around and saw the defendant leaning out of the passenger side window pointing a handgun directly at him. When Eddie looked at the defendant, the defendant started firing the handgun. Eddie ducked and returned fire. The defendant continued to shoot as the car drove away. Damion turned to run, but was shot twice in the back. Ahumada and Eddie were longtime friends from back when there was just one Nutthood Watts gang. The gang divided along racial lines in 2000 when Eddie's cousin, who was black, was murdered by a Latino member of the gang. On the night of the Collins murder, Eddie gave a general description of the shooter but denied knowing him. Later he told the police that he did know the shooter and then testified at trial that he lied about knowing Ahumada because he had no faith in the criminal justice system and intended to kill Ahumada himself. He came forward when the victim's girlfriend convinced him to do the right thing. Jesse, the victim's brother, gave the police a phony name and told them he did not see the shooter. Jesse could not be located, but was later found in juvenile custody in another county. He then identified Ahumada and said he had lied to the police out of fear of retaliation. Ms. Hall did an excellent job of handling Eddie and Jesse despite their previous lies and built her case around their testimony. In addition, Ms. Hall did an excellent job of turning a defense eyewitness expert into a prosecution witness. On cross-examination, the expert conceded that knowing the perpetrator's true name, gang moniker and gang affiliation enhanced the witness' identification. He also admitted that the presence of a weapon had no effect on the witness' identification of a familiar face and conceded that it is not uncommon for gang members to deny knowing the perpetrator out of fear of retaliation. Ms. Hall gave a very passionate

closing argument. Ahumada was convicted of first degree murder and attempted murder, and the gun use allegations were found true. He was sentenced to 60 years to life for the murder of Damion Collins and 39 years in state prison for the attempted murder.

Kenneth Lynch/October 2004



Kenneth Lynch, who joined the office in 1994, received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for his work on the case of People v. Christian Morones and Ursula Gomez. Albert Bachelier and Helen Medina – both daily methamphetamine users – lived together as boyfriend and girlfriend in a trailer in Wilmington. Bachelier funded his methamphetamine habit by trading financial information found in dumpsters – an identity theft crime – for drugs. He also fixed computers in his trailer. In June of 2003, Gary Rodela and Gomez, his girlfriend, went to Bachelier’s trailer to get his computer fixed. The three all smoked methamphetamine together. A week later, Rodela and his girlfriend knocked on the trailer door at 4:30 a.m. When they were let in, Rodela pressed a gun to Bachelier’s head. Morones also entered the trailer. Both men beat and demanded guns from Bachelier, who told them there were none. Medina, the trailer’s other resident, also had a gun pressed to her head. She told the men that there were guns in the cabinets. When the men found the weapons, Morones walked toward Bachelier to kill him. Bachelier pulled out a gun he had hidden nearby, shot Morones in the face and also shot and killed Rodela. Gomez took the

gun out of her dead boyfriend’s hand and ran out of the trailer. A getaway driver, who was never charged, took Morones to the hospital. Bachelier and Dena Victor, a fellow methamphetamine addict who had been hiding in the back of the trailer, were taken to the hospital by police, but both identified the wrong woman as the one who had participated in the robbery. Despite a thorough search of the area, officers did not find any guns belonging to Rodela – the dead victim – or Morones, who was hospitalized. A day after the shooting, Rodela’s gang shot up Bachelier’s trailer in retaliation for his killing. Morones, meantime, survived his injuries, only to be charged with the “provocative act” murder of Rodela, his accomplice. Gomez was also charged with her boyfriend’s murder, since she was an accomplice in the robbery. Both defendants were charged with: the special circumstance of murder during the commission of a robbery; residential robbery; residential burglary; and a special gang allegation. Gomez rejected an offer of a 21-year sentence. This set the tone for the trial, which was essentially a dogfight. The witnesses were either hostile or uncooperative, and their recollections were affected by their prior use of methamphetamine. Ultimately, both defendants were convicted of first degree murder, residential robbery and residential burglary. The special circumstance and gang allegations were also found to be true.

Michael Blake/November 2004



Michael Blake became a deputy district attorney in 2000. He received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for his outstanding trial work in July, August and September 2004. The first of the three cases he tried during that period concerned an armed robbery that involved the

taking of a hostage at the Sam’s Club in Palmdale. In People v. Jones and Ross, only one of the victims was able to identify defendant Jones, whose face was partially covered by a hood. Ross was linked to the robbery through a videotape that showed the two men together in a public restroom before the robbery. The only other evidence that incriminated Ross was the determination that a Sam’s Club employee had to assist defendant Jones in order for him to gain access to the room where the robbery took place. At trial, Mr.

Blake had to overcome vigorous severance motions, a mistaken identification defense and a challenge to the authenticity of the Sam’s Club videotape. During his final argument, Mr. Blake presented a second-by-second PowerPoint timeline of Ross’s movements at the time of the robbery. Both defendants were convicted of all counts and are now serving life terms in state prison. With only a weekend in between, Mr. Blake was back in trial on People v. Price, in which the defendant was charged with shooting at four people at a neighborhood party. All four victims were uncooperative because they had received threats from gang members close to the defendant. Two of the four victims had to be arrested and brought before the court so they could be compelled to testify. After eight days of testimony, the defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 24 years in state prison. Days later, Mr. Blake was in trial again in People v. Rayford and Glass, a case which involved the prosecution of two gang members who opened fire on two women and nine children who were inside of a home where the defendant expected to find someone else. Before the trial started, gang members tried to intimidate the victims, who were already traumatized by the violent episode. In the end, notwithstanding the testimony of a defense gang expert, both defendants were convicted of all counts. Each is now serving a term of 220 years to life in state prison. As demonstrated by his work on these three cases, Mr. Blake is an outstanding and well respected trial attorney.

Decio Rangel/December 2004



Decio Rangel joined the District Attorney’s Office in 1997. He received the Deputy District Attorney of the Month Award for his outstanding work on two very challenging rape trials that he prosecuted in a one month period. The first case was People v. Miguel Gonzalez. The

victim testified that she was at a taco stand at about 11:00 p.m. when she started talking to another customer about a neighborhood dispute she was having regarding her pit bull terrier. The defendant overheard the conversation and offered to take the victim’s dog and keep it at his place of business. He then brought the victim to his business to show her where the dog would be kept. The business was a messy trailer where the

defendant did welding. He also had a hammock at the location. The defendant laid the victim in the hammock where he raped her and forcibly orally copulated her. At one point during the attack, he grabbed a gun and used it to threaten and intimidate the victim. The defendant presented a consent defense claiming that the victim asked the defendant for money after their sexual encounter and that when he refused to give her any, she called the police and claimed rape. Mr. Rangel was able to destroy this defense with very thorough preparation and excellent cross-examination. His arguments to the jury were hard hitting and masterful. The defendant was convicted of a one-strike rape and was sentenced to life in state prison. Mr. Rangel’s second jury trial in the month was People v. Clark Miller. The victim and the defendant had been friends since childhood. At one time about 27 years earlier, they engaged in a sexual encounter. On May 18, 2004, the defendant went to the victim’s house to watch a game and drink. At the end of the game, the victim passed out and the defendant used the opportunity to remove her clothing and orally copulate and digitally penetrate her. The victim’s son arrived home and told the defendant to leave. When the victim awoke, she did not remember any sexual encounter and did not have any vaginal injuries. The defendant claimed the relationship with the victim was more than friendly and that the sexual encounter was consensual. The defense called the victim’s sister to testify that the victim has a more serious relationship with the defendant than the victim would admit. Mr. Rangel’s preparation was extremely thorough and his cross-examination was piercing. He was able to unwind the defense and his very powerful argument persuaded the jury to convict the defendant.

The Jemison Awards

The Frank and Jane Jemison Awards for Distinguished Public Service were established in 1979, when retired D.A. Bureau of Investigation Lieutenant Frank Jemison and his wife, Jane – both now deceased – set up a trust fund for exemplary D.A. employees. Each year at the ceremony, an outstanding District Attorney investigator and an outstanding support staff member are presented with the award. The winners each receive certificates from the D.A.'s Office, a trophy, and a financial award.



2003 Recipients Kimberly Michael Jake Paccione

The 24th Annual Jemison Awards Ceremony was held on November 12, 2003, at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. Over 300 D.A. staff attended the luncheon ceremony, where Witness Assistant Jake Paccione and Senior Investigator Kimberly Michael were recognized as the outstanding support staff member and investigator recipients. The Police Association of Los Angeles County (POALAC) hosted the ceremony.

District Attorney Steve Cooley presented the awards, first announcing Kim Michael as the winner in the investigator category.

A seven-year veteran of the Bureau, Kim has been assigned to Witness Assistance, the Command Center, Welfare Fraud Warrants, Central Investigations, and Recipient Welfare Fraud.

She has been most lauded, however, for her performance in her current assignment in the Public Integrity Division. There she tackles the toughest public corruption investigations in the office.



Those investigations have included a misappropriation of public funds case in South Gate and a Department of Health Services child pornography case.

Kim also led the investigation into allegations that the president of the Entertainment Industry

Development Corporation made illegal campaign contributions to members of the County Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles City Council. She investigated the suspect for using public monies to fund extravagant personal trips overseas and exclusive club memberships. Largely because of Kim's work, the Grand Jury handed down two indictments against the president and vice president of the organization.

Summing up Kim's investigative performance, one deputy district attorney wrote in a Jemison Award nomination: "Kim is absolutely the best investigator I have ever worked with. She always goes above and beyond what is required and is very determined to uncover all the facts."

Above: Kimberly Michael with District Attorney Cooley; Jake Paccione

In her spare time, Kim has volunteered as a Big Sister for two teenage girls from single-parent homes. She has also volunteered in the office's Project L.E.A.D. program, teaching fifth-graders about the dangers of drug, gangs, and other pitfalls they face.

The District Attorney presented the Jemison Award for outstanding support staff member to Jake Paccione, a witness assistant assigned to the Long Beach Branch.

Jake is renowned for finding witnesses no one else can find and for cajoling the most uncooperative ones into testifying. As one deputy district attorney wrote in her nomination, "If I asked Jake on a Friday afternoon to find, unearth and have the skull of Hamlet ready to testify on the following morning, Jake would."

In his remarks, the District Attorney praised Jake for his legendary work ethic – which often keeps him in the office from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. – and for his stellar performances on several cases. For example, on a six-month, three-defendant case he worked, Jake miraculously had over one hundred witnesses lined up to testify. When one deputy sheriff disregarded a subpoena to testify and went on vacation, Jake somehow tracked him down on a cruise ship in Alaska. Jake was researching options to bring the witness back – including the use of a helicopter – when the defendants decided to plead guilty.

In another case, a shooting victim refused to testify, claiming he could not identify his assailant.

Jake called the victim and persuaded him to come to his office. When the victim arrived to see Jake, he explained that he did know who had shot him but would not testify out of fear of retaliation.

After listening to the victim, Jake took the witness stand himself and testified to what he was told. The jury was riveted by Jake's testimony. They convicted the defendant, and he was sentenced to life in prison.

As Jake received the award, his parents stood by his side, both having become fully aware of the magnitude of the honor over the years. John Paccione is the Assistant Director of the Bureau of Management and Budget, and Paulette Paccione is a deputy district attorney assigned to the Torrance Branch.

2004 Recipients Michael Daly Martha Cisneros

Investigator Michael Daly and Legal Office Support Assistant Martha Cisneros were recognized as the 2004 Jemison Award winners at the November Jemison Awards luncheon. They were among eight investigator and 12 support staff award nominees who were applauded for their outstanding public service. The luncheon, which was hosted by the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County, marked the 25th year of the Jemison program.

Michael Daly joined the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation in 1996. He was assigned to the Organized Crime Division when he received the award. One investigation he worked shed light on an



Michael Daly

ongoing scheme to steal gasoline from local distributors. Michael wrote and executed numerous search warrants leading to the seizure of two trucks with converted 500-gallon tanks and other contraband equipment. Coordinating surveillance efforts on a sting operation, Michael helped identify the key suspects. He worked

with other agencies to develop an organized criminal conspiracy link and prepared the case for filing.

Another example of Michael's investigative prowess occurred on the Carlo Ventre case. Ventre was suspected of killing his daughter's mother after fleeing with the child to Italy. When the abducted child was later placed in the custody of her maternal grandparents in the United States, Ventre tried to have them killed, too. Michael learned from an informant about this plot and coordinated an undercover operation in which a D.A. investigator posed as a hit man. Ventre offered the undercover investigator \$100,000 for the murder of

the grandparents. Due to Michael's efforts, Ventre was arrested, deported, and now faces charges. In addition, Italian officials are revisiting the death of his child's mother and will likely file charges against Ventre for her murder. On yet another case, Michael dismantled an organized burglary ring that was responsible for stealing millions of dollars worth of tobacco products. He conducted a sting operation that resulted in the arrest of five members of the ring. A few months later, additional conspiracy charges were filed against two of the suspects when Michael developed a strong welfare fraud case against them.

While tenacity is Michael's hallmark during investigations, he is also known for his compassion and concern for others.

In 2001, he raised \$2,500 for a medical clinic in Ethiopia by soliciting pledges and running a marathon in Denver. He also led a team from his church to an impoverished town in Mexico, where they dry-walled a church and two houses, painted three houses, and provided food to every family in the village. Joining Michael at the luncheon were his wife, Melissa, a fellow D.A. investigator assigned to Recipient Welfare Fraud, their two sons, and Mike's parents.

In the support staff category, the District Attorney honored Martha Cisneros, a 32-year veteran of the office. For 23 years, Martha has worked in the Hardcore Gang Division, where she serves as secretary to the Division's head deputy. Martha is an admired example and inspiring leader of all the support staff members in the division. She is the timekeeper for all

Hardcore Staff, which previously numbered nearly 100. Essentially, she is the equivalent of an office manager for a good-sized law firm.

Martha was instrumental in the launch and expansion of C.L.E.A.R., Hardcore's multi-agency collaborative gang suppression program. She set up six off-site locations for C.L.E.A.R., coordinated the logistics of locating the prosecutors, interviewed and hired all the support staff, and equipped all the offices.

Some of Martha's greatest contributions, however, cannot be quantified. In a division characterized by back-to-back murder cases for each prosecutor, high morale is crucial. Martha understands that and keeps prosecutors and support staff in the highest of spirits. She ensures that every prosecutor has what he or she needs to be successful in trial. Her compassion, sense of humor, and encouraging words uplift everyone and make the stress of the division's work manageable. And she does it all despite her struggle with a painful arthritic condition that would overwhelm many.

Martha's ability to raise spirits is not confined to the office. She is also a pillar in her community, where she is dedicated to the well-being of others. For the past 10 years, she has organized bake sales to raise funds for Para Los Niños, a non-profit organization that supports impoverished at-risk children. Martha serves as secretary for the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, which represents her neighborhood on local city matters. She also is a member of the Neighborhood Watch program at Resurrection Church. There she led the successful effort to lobby local and federal officials

to implement the C.L.E.A.R. program in the area. C.L.E.A.R. which has existed throughout the County because of her work in the office, now exists in East Los Angeles because of her community activism. As Martha received her award, her mother, Alicia, stood by her side.

Martha Cisneros, along with her mother, makes her way to the podium to accept the 2004 Jemison Award.



Michael P. Noyes Humanitarian Award

The Michael P. Noyes Humanitarian Award is given annually to a District Attorney employee who gives significantly of himself or herself by donating personal time and physical, financial and/or emotional support to help another individual or community in need. The award is named after Deputy District Attorney Mike Noyes, who in 2001 donated part of his lung to a girl whose life was threatened by cystic fibrosis. Background photo: Michael Noyes and District Attorney Steve Cooley.

Jim Hickey/2003 Recipient

The third recipient of the Noyes Humanitarian Award was Deputy District Attorney Jim Hickey. He received the award during the 2003 Jemison Awards ceremony.

Jim joined the District Attorney's Office in 1978. But while he has accomplished much throughout his career, his professional accomplishments fall far short of describing him as a person. In a world that brings grief to many, Jim brings hope. He has a heart of gold and does all he can to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

For over 10 years, Jim has served on Los Angeles County's School Attendance Review Board, doing all he can to keep truants in school. A staunch proponent of education, he often trains school districts on how to develop their own attendance review boards. He believes in their value because he believes in the value of the community's youth. That belief is apparent in everything Jim does.

For example, realizing that the only books available to the inmates at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall were textbooks, Jim sprung into action. Working with local service clubs, school districts, libraries, and other civic organizations, he looked for resources that could donate recreational books to the juveniles detained at the

facility.

Recently, he secured a donation of nearly 1,000 books for that purpose. Thanks to Jim, inmates at Los Padrinos now have the opportunity to read something other than textbooks during a trying time in their lives.

Jim's good will, however, goes far beyond books.

In his hometown of Whittier, Jim continually advocates for improved public education. He works with the Whittier School Board on ways they can enhance opportunities for students. He also coached in a YMCA youth basketball league for years, sharing with his players the basketball knowledge he's gained through years of morning pick-up games.

Jim has also worked for nearly 15 years with the

District Attorney Cooley with Jim Hickey and family.



Intercommunity Child Guidance Center, which provides mental health services to indigent young people in Whittier, Santa Fe Springs, and Pico Rivera. For the last two years, he has volunteered on the organization's Board of Directors.

Active at First Friends Church in Whittier, Jim and his family donate to the poor. They serve meals to the homeless throughout the year. They provide the less fortunate with emotional support.

But the greatest testaments to Jim's character and compassion for others are his children: Jorge, Diego, Alenie, and A.J.

Recognizing there are so many children in need, Jim and his wife, Lark, were always interested in adopting. They were happy with their life and felt fortunate for the love and opportunities they shared.

In 1987, they decided to share those opportunities and love with a young child. After traveling to Brazil several times to research the country's adoption process, they adopted Jorge. He was four years old at the time.

Subsequently, they returned to Rio de Janeiro twice to adopt three more children.

The Noyes Award was the office's recognition of Jim Hickey's unique brand of generosity.

Lorna Soulier/2004 Recipient

The fourth recipient of the Mike Noyes Humanitarian Award was Victim Service Representative Lorna Soulier. She received the award at the 2004 Jemison Awards ceremony.

Lorna joined the office in December of 1996. Since then she has worked in Huntington Park, Downtown L.A., and Pomona as a victim advocate. In all her assignments, she has been invaluable to victims she's served and to other D.A. staff. Her office door is plastered with thank you letters she has received from organizations for which she volunteered and victims she's assisted. One such letter sums them up: "We just wanted to say 'thank you' once again for everything you did for us. Detective Ferguson was so right when she said that you do God's work."

While Lorna's work assisting victims has been stellar – even earning her a nomination for this year's Jemison Award – it is her good work outside the office that



Lorna Soulier, Bureau Director Jacquelyn Lacey and District Attorney Cooley.

earned her the Noyes Award.

For the past several years, she has helped train new rape crisis counselors at Project Sister, a sexual assault crisis and prevention services center. She has also worked with House of Ruth, a domestic violence shelter, to provide services to battered women. She has lectured regularly at Cal Poly Pomona on domestic violence issues.

Always looking for ways to help those in need, Lorna coordinates donations of food and clothing for Catholic Charities. She has also volunteered for Project L.E.A.D., the office's crime prevention program for at-risk fifth graders.

Many people see Lorna as a life saver. Fittingly, she was exactly that during last year's wildfires.

While Lorna and her husband were visiting her brother-in-law near the San Bernardino mountains, a forest fire changed course and headed toward his house. Everyone in the surrounding neighborhood began to evacuate, except an elderly woman next door who refused to abandon her house.

Lorna tried desperately to convince the woman to leave. When she couldn't talk her into it, Lorna pulled the woman out of the house and drove her to safety.

Had it not been for Lorna's caring actions, the elderly woman surely would have died. Just 15 minutes later, her house – engulfed in flames – burned to the ground.

With Lorna when she received the award were her sister Yanela, who works in the District Attorney's Bureau of Management and Budget, and her husband Richard, who works in security at the Pomona Courthouse.

2003/2004 Recipients of Awards from Outside Agencies and Organizations

Cristine Albanese/2003-2004

City of La Mirada, "Caught in the Act of Excellence Award" for consistently demonstrating genuine enthusiasm as a team player and for contributions that make La Mirada a safer and more desirable community

Franco Baratta/2004

Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), "Heroes for Kids Award" for contributions at work and in his personal life to keep children safe and to prevent child abuse and neglect

David Berger/2004

First Annual Deputy Probation Officers Awards Banquet, "Leadership Award" for his leadership in forming a coalition of city and law enforcement agencies in and around Lancaster to combat crime in rental housing

Pamela Booth/2003

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Family Crimes Bureau, "Mary Ellen McCormick Award" for her significant contributions on behalf of abused and neglected children

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recognition for her for participation in the Safe Haven Task Force, created to reduce the number of abandoned babies, and for her leadership of the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council

Dinko Bozanich/2003

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, Career Prosecutor Award

Richard Burns/2004

National College of District Attorneys, "Stephen L. Von Riesen – Lecturer of Merit Award" in recognition of exceptional service in the continuing education of prosecuting attorneys

Michael Camacho/2004

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, Deputy District Attorney of the Year for his stellar performance in 45 murder trials while assigned to the Hardcore Gang Division

Allan Fork/2003

International Association of Financial Crime Investigators, Prosecutor of the Year for his outstanding work on the "La Luz de Oro" case

Richard Goul/2004

Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Coordinating Council, "Dedication Award"

Robert Grace/2003

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, Pursuit of Justice Award

Eleanor Hunter/2003 & 2004

National District Attorneys Association, "Homerun Hitters Award," 2004

California Assembly, Commendation for Special Achievement, 2003

California Lawyer Magazine, California Lawyers of the Year, 2003

Sheriff Lee Baca, Special Commendation for Outstanding Achievement, 2003

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Commendation for Special Achievement, 2003

Jeffrey Jonas/2004

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, Career Prosecutor Award for his 36-year career achievements, including 22 years as a head deputy

Lisa Kahn/2003 & 2004

Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW), Humanitarian Public Service Award, 2003

County of Los Angeles Commendation, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Justice for Homicide Victims Award, 2004

2003/2004 Recipients of Awards from Outside Agencies and Organizations

Diane Kirby-White/2003

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, District Attorney Investigator of the Year

Kenneth Lamb/2003 & 2004

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, “Babe Ruth of Felony Trials Award,” 2003

Long Beach Bar Association, “Outstanding Service Award,” 2004

Darren Levine/2004

National District Attorneys Association, “Homerun Hitters Award”

John Lewin/2004

Justice for Homicide Victims, Prosecutor of the Year

Corene Locke-Noble/2004

Long Beach Police Department, Chief’s Citation

Bill Mangan/2004

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Distinguished Service Medal, upon completion of 37 years as a California peace officer

Anthony Manzella/2003

Los Angeles County Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, Prosecutor of the Year

Kevin McCormick/2003 & 2004

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, 2003 Deputy District Attorney of the Year for his outstanding work in prosecuting gang related crimes in the Hardcore Gang Division and the Major Crimes Division

Justice for Homicide Victims, Prosecutor of the Year, 2004

George Palmer/2003 & 2004

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, Pursuit of Justice Award, 2003

California District Attorney’s Association, “John J. Meehan Career Achievement Award,” 2004

Joseph Payne/2004

Antelope Valley Bar Association, Prosecutor of the Year

Patrick Sequeira/2003-2004

Association of Government Attorneys, “Outstanding Advocacy in Capital Cases Award” for his successful prosecution of *People v. Marcus Adams*

Douglas Sortino/2004

Justice for Homicide Victims, Prosecutor of the Year 2004

David Torres/2004

Los Angeles County Association of Deputy District Attorneys, District Attorney Investigator of the Year

Barbara Turner/2004

California Narcotics Officers’ Association (CNOA), Prosecutor of the Year

Christine Von Helmolt/2004

City Council of Paramount recognition for her tireless efforts to prevent, reduce and suppress criminal activity in the city

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Photo Credits

Page 3: Cover art by California Lawyer magazine
Page 5: Sante and Kenneth Kimes/
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The District Attorney's Office will provide speakers to interested groups who want to learn more about the topics mentioned in this report. Call: 213/974-7401.

This report submitted as required by Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 4099,

